



HERSCHEL  
MUSEUM OF  
ASTRONOMY



## Artist Brief

We are seeking a lead artist to work with children of St Andrew's Church School to co-design and make a photo-montage (in any media) celebrating different scientists, inventors and engineers based on the work 'The Distinguished Men of Science of Great Britain 1807-8' (see below). We would like to create a modern version of the work called 'Distinguished People of Science' featuring people of different genders and ethnic backgrounds who have worked in scientific fields in the last 200 years. The finished piece will be displayed on a wall in the school. This project is part of the Herschel Museum of Astronomy's commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Herschel's death.

### Overview

Children at St Andrew's will be learning about different people who have made important contributions to science, technology and engineering, including astronomy. Children will be supported by their teachers to come up with a list of 50 people to include. We would like an artist (or artists) to work with the children to develop their ideas and produce a finished photo-montage for display. We would anticipate 3 days directly working with children in school. This is an open brief and we would welcome your expressions of interest detailing your creative approach.

The project will be led by Ellie Giles, Learning and Engagement Officer at Bath Preservation Trust, and Jayne Rochford-Smith, Headteacher of St Andrew's Church School, supported by Dr Penny Hay from House of Imagination.

### Background

The Herschel Museum of Astronomy is owned and managed by Bath Preservation Trust. The museum and garden at 19 New King Street was the home of William Herschel, when he discovered the planet Uranus in 1781, whilst living there with his sister Caroline.

<https://herschelmuseum.org.uk/>



The Distinguished Men of Science of Great Britain 1807-08, Design by John Gilbert, drawing by John F. Skill, William & Elizabeth Walker, engraved by William Walker & George Zobel, 1862

This engraving portrays an imagined meeting of 51 'Distinguished Men of Science' in the Library of the Royal Institution. The engraver and publisher, William Walker, came up with the idea for this work in 1856 and diligently collected portraits and information about all the men featured. Not all of them had achieved fame or recognition by 1807 and not all the portraits used were from that time; they were however all alive in 1807-8.

The men are grouped by their field of study and William Herschel is seated at the front on the far left, just next to the globe.

### **Materials/Specifications/Dates:**

- The school is open to all art forms and practices but particularly want the children's ideas and work to be celebrated in the final piece.
- An open brief for materials and approach.
- Exact measurements to be confirmed by the school. Approx 6ft wide by 3ft high
- The works will be displayed in the school corridor so will need to be durable.
- Workshops with children in school will be in November 2022 (no more than 3 days in the classroom) with artwork to be ready for installation by the end of the Autumn term (December 2022)
- The artist/s will be asked to provide comments and reflections for the purposes of evaluation after the project.
- A mentor from House of Imagination will support the project.

### **Budget**

The anticipated budget is £3,000 including VAT

This includes (but is not limited to) all artist fees, artist travel, the fabrication and materials of the work and installation. This budget includes VAT.

Artists fees: 6 days @ £250 a day to include preparation, contact time, evaluation and installation

Materials: £1000

Contingency and travel: £500

### **Marketing and Promotion**

The Herschel Museum of Astronomy and Bath Preservation Trust will reserve the right to use images of the artwork for any press, marketing and interpretation for an unlimited period with appropriate credits. It is essential that the artist is open to being involved in media coverage, interviews, press and PR. This will include photographs of the school workshops, the artwork at different stages of creation and the finished piece.