

# Woman's Hour Craft Prize FAQs

## What is the Woman's Hour Craft Prize?

The Woman's Hour Craft Prize 2017 is a BBC, Crafts Council and V&A initiative to find and celebrate the most innovative and exciting craft practitioner/s or designer-maker/s resident in the UK today. It is the most comprehensive prize of its kind.

A shortlist of 12 craft practitioners will be selected for the Woman's Hour Craft Prize Exhibition at the V&A from September 2017 – February 2018, followed by a UK tour. The overall winner will be selected and announced at an Awards Ceremony in November 2017.

The winner will receive £10,000 in prize money.

## Who can apply?

The Prize is open to British nationals and UK residents (of any gender) who are aged 18 years or over (on the submission deadline of the 13 February 2017).

Students studying for an undergraduate craft qualification (full or part-time) are not eligible. Apprentices may apply if they feel that they have significantly contributed to craft practice in the last five years (see below for guidance on what this means).

The Prize is not open to employees of the BBC, Crafts Council, V&A, or anyone connected with the Prize or their direct family members.

## How do we define craft?

### Materials

Applicants can be working in a range of materials including (but not limited to):

- wood or wood products (including paper)
- metal
- ceramics
- glass
- plastics
- leather
- organic materials
- stone
- textiles

### Practices and disciplines

Applicants can call themselves a crafts practitioner, design-maker, maker, craftsperson, designer or artist including (but not limited to) the following;

- Furniture maker
- Ceramicist
- Ceramic artist
- Potter

- Silversmith
- Metalsmith
- Textile artist
- Textile designer
- Leather worker
- Stone mason
- Jeweller
- Artist-maker

We welcome applications from multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary makers.

We welcome applications from collaborative partnerships if there is a history of working as such and it is your primary way of working. If you enter as a partnership you may not also enter as an individual.

Makers who work exclusively on restoration and conservation are not eligible to apply.

### **Techniques/production methods**

Applicants may also be using a range of techniques and production methods including:

- handmade
- small batch production
- digital technology

Applications are welcome from those who are using manufacturers. However the applicant must maintain personal control over the whole of the making process, with an exploration, understanding of, and direct connection to materials used.

Fashion or interior designers can only be considered in the context of textile making. Creation or manipulation of the fabric i.e. weaving, knitting, printing or embroidery must be central to the practice and followed through to create a product or body of work. Garments must be constructed from your own material.

Printmaking is eligible in the context of product design and excludes art printmaking.

This is not an exhaustive list of materials or production methods and those working in other materials/methods are also eligible.

### **What is the judging criterion?**

The judges are looking for originality and excellence in concept, design and process and assessing the contribution of the applicants' contribution to craft practice. They will be judging against:

- Quality of work
- Intellectual content
- Personal expression

- Innovation
- Excellence of making
- Overall assessment of application
- Significant contribution to craft in the last five years

### **What do we mean by significant contribution to craft?**

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the impact of their practice upon their discipline or upon wider audiences through the regular public exposure of new work or other activities. This might include (this is not a definitive list):

- participation in major group show(s)
- solo exhibition(s)
- representation by a major gallery or agent
- significant public commission(s)
- residencies in public institutions
- awards or prizes
- reviews or features in recognised publications
- acquisitions of your work by a significant public or private collection(s)
- practice-led research
- development of innovative techniques or processes
- bringing craft skills to an arena outside of the traditional craft sector
- other forms of public engagement

### **What is the judging process?**

The judging is a four-stage process;

#### **Stage 1**

The Crafts Council who look at all submissions against the above criteria and submit up to one hundred (100) of the best entries per category to Stage 2.

#### **Stage 2**

Seven (7) specialist panels each comprising four (4) judges who are experts in their field including a Chair will judge the following seven craft categories: ceramics, metals, textiles, jewellery, glass, wood & furniture and other (including but not limited to paper, lettering, leatherwork and mixed media). Each specialist panel will together discuss and decide on a shortlist of between four (4) and ten (10) entries for each category (depending on category submission numbers)

#### **Stage 3**

An exhibition/finalists judging panel made up of the Chairs of the category judging panels plus representatives from the BBC, V&A and Crafts Council will select the twelve (12) strongest finalists from any but not necessarily all of the seven (7) categories who will exhibit their work at the V&A.

#### **Stage 4**

An expert judging panel will select a final overall winner from the twelve (12) finalists based on the work they exhibit at the V&A.

## **Who are the judges?**

The judges are leading curators, critics, writers, educators and artists with craft expertise. The full list can be found on the Crafts Council website.

## **How do I apply?**

Applications can be made through the Crafts Council website and require the following mandatory information:

- Your first name
- Your last name
- Your email
- Your telephone number
- Your website of primary online presence
- Your craft discipline
- Your CV
- A supporting statement
- Up to four images of work\* made in the last five years that best reflects your practice/work. Please do not use montages in order to show as much work as possible.
- Signing up to the Entry Terms and Conditions.

\*Within the images section there is also opportunity to submit up to two images of work you would show if selected as one of the 12 shortlisted makers to feature in the Woman's Hour Craft Prize exhibition. This can be existing work but we would encourage entrants to create new work for the exhibition and so submit illustrative images such as sketches. There is however no fee available for creating new work if selected. As we cannot supply information on the dimensions of exhibiting space available to individuals we are encouraging ambition in proposed new work but cannot commit to them being accommodated.

As you cannot save your application as you go along we strongly recommend that you have all the relevant information in a Word document in advance of filling in the application.

## **Accessibility**

If you have any problems filling in the form due to accessibility issues please contact us on [comms@craftscouncil.org.uk](mailto:comms@craftscouncil.org.uk) and we will enable you to apply by other means.

## **What if I have made a mistake on my submitted application?**

If you realise you have missed something out or have made a mistake - please contact us at [comms@craftscouncil.org.uk](mailto:comms@craftscouncil.org.uk) rather than submit a second application.

## **What happens once I have submitted my form?**

You will receive on-screen notification that your application has been successfully submitted and an email notification. Once the deadline (13

February 2017) has passed there and the judging completed we will notify the 12 shortlisted makers by the end of April 2017.

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