



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE OPPORTUNITY

WATTS GALLERY - ARTISTS' VILLAGE

June - October 2018

We are looking for a carpenter, artist, maker or creative collective to respond to Watts Gallery Trust's forthcoming exhibition, **James Henry Pullen: Inmate - Inventor - Genius** by making new work and participating in our learning and public programmes.

The James Henry Pullen exhibition at Watts Gallery - Artists' Village opens to the public on Tuesday 19 June and closes on Sunday 28 October 2018. This exhibition continues Watts Gallery's exhibition series about 19th and early 20th century outsider artists and is the first-ever gallery show exploring the life and work of James Henry Pullen.

James Henry Pullen (1835 - 1916) had learning disabilities. After attending a school for children with special needs, he was admitted to Earlswood Asylum in Reigate, Surrey when he was 14 years old and where he stayed for over seventy years. A clear diagnosis was never made.

Whilst James Henry Pullen's illness held him back from leading a completely independent life, his creative development flourished. At Earlswood he was taught carpentry and cabinet making in which he excelled. He also continued drawing and model making, which he had enjoyed since childhood. His woodworking skills and childhood fascination with boats led to making exhibition worthy replica model boats which he started to make on a large scale and in intricate detail, copying the crafts of shipwrights. In his workshop he also made imaginative/fantasy model boats and he created a mechanical mannequin/giant puppet in his workshop that he could get inside and manipulate. After a phase of making imaginary models, he started painting and making furniture for the asylum. He also made small carvings that he would sell. When he didn't have the tools he needed for his creativity, he would make them. The story of his life is encapsulated in 41 of his drawings.

James Henry Pullen became a Victorian celebrity, known as 'the Genius of Earlswood'. This exhibition tells Pullen's extraordinary story and includes works on loan from the Langdon Down Museum of Learning Disability, named after Dr John Langdon Down, the superintendent at Earlswood who supported James Henry Pullen.

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Further information can be found here:

<https://langdondownmuseum.org.uk/the-collections/james-henry-pullen-collection-a-resident-of-earlswood/>

<http://langdondownmuseum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Pullen-Booklet.pdf>

The role of the Artist in Residence will be to:

- Make new work inspired by the craft and ideas of James Henry Pullen resulting in interactive work and displays in the week of 20 - 28 October 2018
- Explore the possibilities of both traditional and contemporary model making and sculpture skills e.g. woodworking, steam bending, 3D printing, animation
- Engage audiences in making, through open studios/demonstrations and workshops and to play a prominent role in The Make Festival (22 & 23 September).
- Embrace the exhibition, landscape and Art for All ethos of G F and Mary Watts, founders of the Watts Gallery - Artists' Village.

Watts Gallery Trust will provide:

- A stipend of £3500 for the residency period between June - October 2018
- Sole use of a purpose built studio
- A budget of £1000 for materials
- Staff support and administration

To apply:

Applications should take the form of a single-sided A4 written proposal, CV and examples of your work or link to your website. Applications should be sent by email to learning@wattsgallery.org.uk

Watts Gallery Trust is committed to Equality and Diversity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Application Deadline: by 9am Thursday 19 April, 2018