

# GRINLING GIBBONS 300 AWARD

## IN STONE AND WOOD CARVING



### The Award

Grinling Gibbons, legendary artist, sculptor, craftsman and the greatest carver in British history, died on 3 August 1721. Over the past 300 years, he has inspired generations of makers and artists. He carved with an unsurpassed realism; his name is synonymous with excellence. Gibbons' legacy lives on, and he is a potent symbol of inspiration and achievement.

In a spirit of celebration of his legacy, we are inviting emerging carvers, apprentices and students engaged in the study of carving, sculpture and craftsmanship to participate in the Grinling Gibbons 300 Award. This Award seeks to support, spotlight and develop the work of emerging talent. Participants will create radically new works of art and figurative carving, which nevertheless take as their point of inspiration the skill and techniques, and creativity and visionary design that Gibbons brought to the medium of wood and stone.

*The Award represents an opportunity to:*

- Make connections within the industry and grow your contacts
- Compete for significant cash prizes
- Win a place on the Prince's Foundation Summer School
- Be mentored by an established master carver
- Carve a significant portfolio piece
- Exhibit your work nationally
- Receive recognition and peer review
- Participate in a programme that denotes professional excellence in your field
- Benefit from the national media coverage that *Grinling Gibbons 300* will attract



# The Programme

## STAGE 1: Design submission and short-listing

At Stage 1 participants will be vying to be shortlisted by a panel of industry professionals for one of **seven places each in stone and wood** (a total of fourteen places). Judging at stage 1 will be based on the submission of a drawing for a proposed design along with accompanying information (see below for submission details and criteria.)

## STAGE 2: Production and Mentoring

At Stage 2 the fourteen successful participants will be awarded a sum of £350 to assist in procuring materials and to carry out the work. A period of up to 8 weeks is allotted for the production of your artwork. The length of time given is to encourage the highest possible standards in technique and execution and to allow you to really flex your carving abilities.

A mentor (a highly experienced professional and member of the Master Carvers' Association) will also be allocated to you, and will help guide and offer advice as you progress. Although their time is not unlimited, we encourage you to draw on their expertise and experience and use this opportunity to develop your craft.

## STAGE 3: Final Judging

Final judging for prize winners will be by an independent panel comprising leading sculptors and artists, specialists from the field of art and sculpture, gallery directors, and patrons and collectors, as well as a representative each from the Masons' and Carpenters' Companies.

Judging will take place between 15<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> July. You will need to arrange for your work to be fully completed and delivered to London in advance of this (further information about judging will be available closer to the date). Please note that we are likely to ask that finalists attend a session as part of the judging process to meet informally with the judges and your fellow carvers, and to have an opportunity to discuss your piece and the processes you have gone through to achieve the finished work.

## Stage 4: Exhibition & Prize-giving

Works from all fourteen finalists will be showcased as part of the tercentenary exhibition, *Grinling Gibbons: Centuries in the making*. The exhibition will celebrate Grinling Gibbons' place in British decorative art and the ongoing impact of his work. The aim is to bring together a rich and representative body of his work: both iconic works and pieces never seen before on exhibition, alongside works by artists inspired by Gibbons. Through it, we seek to examine how his pioneering style and extraordinary creative output acted as a source of inspiration for his contemporaries, and still resonates today.

'Centuries in the making' will be a two-venue exhibition. It will launch at Bonhams, New Bond Street on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 and run until 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Prize giving will be held at Bonhams during this period. The exhibition will then tour to Compton Verney, Warwickshire where it will be on display from 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022. **NB Award participants must commit to their works being on display throughout this period. Works will be unable to be removed until the conclusion.**



## The Brief & Criteria

Grinling Gibbons had an unequalled ability to transform solid, unyielding wood and stone into something truly ethereal. The theme for the Award is taken from a quote by Horace Walpole in which he recognises this and Gibbons' genius in the "*art which arrives even unto deception*".

We encourage you to become familiar with Gibbons' body of carving. With the richness of his work, form and style from which to take your inspiration, it is expected you will be able to employ the theme with the utmost freedom in creating exuberant and revolutionary virtuoso works of art for 2021 that challenge and delight the perceptions of viewers.

In assessing the award, criteria will be based upon how well the work:

- [1] relates to the theme "*art which arrives even unto deception*".
- [2] demonstrates a desire for the pursuit of excellence in design and to push materials to the limit.
- [3] extends and challenges the carver through the use of technique and disciplined process.
- [4] delivers a compelling package of storytelling and execution.
- [5] demonstrates that the carver has potential to achieve a significant position in their field of carving and design.



## Prizes

There are three prizes offered in each category for *first, second and third* places attracting prizes worth £1000, £750 and £500 respectively.

### The Prince's Foundation Summer School

Two first place winners will also be awarded places at the annual Prince's Foundation Summer School in 2022. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in this prestigious programme designed to develop knowledge of traditional architecture, design, building and repair techniques and how these can be applied in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The programme brings together architects, craftspeople, designers and developers who are interested in building crafts and architecture, and how these factors respond to the local identity of historic contexts in a timeless and ecological way. The three-week programme is split between Shoreditch, London's creative quarter, and the spectacular 18th century stately home, The Dumfries House Estate in Ayrshire, Scotland.



## Entry & Eligibility

This Award is open only to *emerging* and *early-career* carvers: registered with or graduated within the last 4 years from a relevant NVQ, degree course or graduate diploma, or at are at an 'apprenticeship' level with a carving workshop, studio or company. Status as an emerging carver must be demonstrated within the application.



## Submitting your entry

To apply you will need to send a completed Application Form available for download from [www.grinling-gibbons.org/grinling-gibbons-tercentennial-award/](http://www.grinling-gibbons.org/grinling-gibbons-tercentennial-award/)

In the Application Form, you will be asked to include or attach:

- Details of the course that you are currently on, or have graduated from (please include your date of graduation), and/or evidence that you are an early-career stage as defined above.
- An artist's statement: an explanation of your idea for the proposed carving and what it seeks to convey and the research involved. Please also include a brief paragraph as to why this Award would be of value to you personally in developing your career.
- Your chosen material, estimated size of finished work and how it needs to be displayed (i.e. free-standing or wall-mounted etc).
- Your arrangements for where you plan to carve your work.
- Brief time management plan: we would like to see that your ideas can be achieved realistically in the timeframe.
- Working drawings for your proposed piece. You may also choose to include a maquette (submitted in photographic form) although this is not a requirement.
- Images of 3 examples of your previous work.



## Points to note

Participants are encouraged to extend their draughtsmanship skills. Drawings will be vetted by a selection panel. They will be looking for creative and technical potential, as well as the ability for your work to be realistically and fully achieved within the timeframe.

A selection of Stage 1 design proposals may be showcased as part of the Award programme, either online or through other platforms such as social media. This is aimed at bringing greater exposure to the work of leading emerging talent in this country. **Please note that by submitting your design for the Award, you are giving consent for these images to be used for this purpose.**

If you are selected to go through as a stage-two participant, then we may require your **original** design drawings for exhibition alongside your completed works. So please retain these safely.



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## Key dates and information

**Stage 1 applications** to be received no later than: **5pm on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. Please send your completed Application Form and supporting material to: [gibbonsaward2021@gmail.com](mailto:gibbonsaward2021@gmail.com)

You will be notified by email whether you are successful by **w/c 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

Mentoring window: **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021**. These are the dates between which your allocated mentor will be available to be in touch with you.

Finalist works to be assembled for judging in London by **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**. You will be responsible for arranging transport for your work to the judging location (to be confirmed).

The exhibition will launch on **3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021** at Bonhams, New Bond Street, London and conclude at Compton Verney on **30<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.

## Award Organisation

The prize is organised under the auspices of the Grinling Gibbons Society (registered charity 1190987) in conjunction with the Master Carvers' Association, as part of the Grinling Gibbons Tercentenary 2021/22. Award Organisers are Nick Roberson (MCA) and Hannah Phillip (GG300 Programme Director). Any enquiries should be directed to [gibbonsaward2021@gmail.com](mailto:gibbonsaward2021@gmail.com)



The Master Carvers' Association



## Award Funders & Supporters

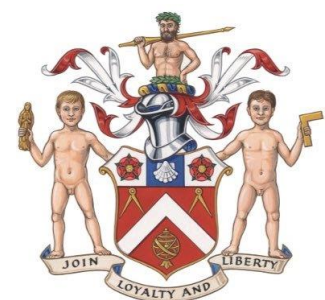
These Prizes and the Award Programme have been generously supported by **The Worshipful Company of Masons, The Carpenters' Company and The Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers**. They are major contributors to this project, and we thank them for their role in helping safeguard the skills and craftsmanship advanced by Grinling Gibbons and supporting present-day makers in the development of their craft and creativity.



The Carpenters' Company



The Worshipful Company of  
Masons



The Worshipful Company of  
Joiners and Ceilers