

# Guidance note

## Choosing an Artist or Crafts Person

# ChurchCare



16,000 buildings. One resource



This guide helps you through the initial process of choosing and commissioning an artist or crafts person for your new art work. It will provide you with a number of online resources and directories to help you search for the right artist to turn your vision for a new art work into a reality.

### Online Resources/Directories

If you are looking to commission a new art work for your church, there are a number of directories you can consult which can direct you to appropriate and exciting artists for your specific project. The directories we have listed here provide a good starting point when searching for an appropriate artist for an ecclesiastical commission, as they allow you to search by ecclesiastical themes. We have listed good examples of directories for crafts people, fine artists, specific crafts/arts and regional craft guilds/societies. However, there are a large number of online directories for artists online and your search does not have to be limited to these suggestions.

### General Directories for Artists and Crafts People

Whether you know exactly what you want, or whether you just want to browse, these general directories listed below are a great place to start. We have compiled brief descriptions of a number of

these directories and outlined brief instructions on the best way to get the most out of searching for ecclesiastical artists or crafts people.

### General Directories for Crafts People

#### National Register of Makers (NRM)

The National Register of Makers provides the largest register of contemporary craft makers in the UK, including over 3,000 makers. The register allows you to search for a contemporary craft maker by their name you might be interested in commissioning, by keyword (e.g. ecclesiastical), by region or by discipline if you are looking for a specific type of art work. The National Register of Makers provides the maker's contact details (including links to their websites where applicable) and a brief explanation on the nature of their work. A new directory is currently in development to be ready by summer 2015.

<http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/>

### The Heritage Crafts Association (HCA)

Aiming to support and promote heritage crafts, the Heritage Crafts Association provides an online directory which features profiles of those who have become Friends of the HCA. You are able to search the directory by craft category or keyword, such as 'church'. The directory then provides a list of potential artists and crafts people which match your search. Each individual profile displays contact information, details of the type of work they do and shows their location on an interactive map.

<http://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/index.php/directory/directory>

### Society of Designer Craftsmen

The Society of Designer Craftsmen promotes and supports the work of designers and makers who specialise in crafts. The website provides a list of members, indicating which craft they specialise in and usually

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providing a contact email address or link to the artist's website.

<http://www.societyofdesignercraftsmen.org.uk/members.php?c=members>

## Memorials by Artists (MBA)

Artists who specialise in the design and making of memorials can be found on the Memorials by Artists website. The directory allows you to simply browse all of the artists listed, or search more specifically by name, region or media. It provides profiles of each artist, indicating their skills and qualifications as well as illustrating a number of examples of their work. You are able to contact the artist by filling out the online contact form.

<http://www.memorialsbyartists.co.uk/artists/>

## General Directories for Fine Artists

### Axis

Axis is the online resource for UK contemporary art. The directory allows you to search by artist or by artwork and is a particularly useful source for searching for fine artists. You can easily narrow your search by entering a keyword into the 'search' box, such as 'church', or a discipline such as 'painting' for example. The directory provides the artist's professional profile, examples of their work, their CV and a contact form for you to reach them.

<http://www.axisweb.org/Directory.aspx>

## Artists Directory

This online resource is a showcase directory of British visual artists. It includes artists that specialise in painting, drawing, illustration, printmaking, sculpture, ceramic art, photography, textile art, glass art and calligraphic art. You can search by all artists a-z or by category, indicating the type of art work you are interested in. When searching by category you can also select the subject, such as 'religious' or 'architecture' to narrow your search further. The directory provides a profile of each registered artist and images to show you examples of their work.

<http://www.artistsdirectory.co.uk/default.aspx>

## Artistic Directory

A directory which allows UK artists and designers to showcase their online portfolio to potential clients. You can search for an artist via category, which includes fine art, glass, photography, sculpture and metal.

<http://www.artisticdirectory.co.uk/>

## Specific Crafts/Arts Directories

You may already know what type of art work you wish to commission for your church. The directories outlined above will allow you to search for an artist via a specific category (e.g.

sculpture). However, there are also a number of guilds and societies for specific arts and crafts that also provide information and contact details of specialists within the artistic category with which you are interested. Below is a list of examples of specialist craft directories which may be of help to you.

## The British Society of Master Glass Painters (BSMGP)

The BSMGP is an organisation which is devoted to the art and craft of stained glass. Within the 'Membership' section, a list indicates all the fellows and associates of the society by name. Further to this, the 'Portfolios' section allows you to select a certain individual to view a brief portfolio of their work, including contact information.

<http://www.bsmgp.org.uk/people.php>

## The Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass

A list of artists, who are members of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, can be found on the company's website. Each of these artists has an online portfolio detailing the type of work they specialise in, examples of projects and contact details.

<http://www.worshipfulglaziers.com/artists-6.htm>





## Contemporary Glass Society (CGS)

The CGS directory focuses on artists that specialise in contemporary glass design. The members directory allows you to search for an artist by technique, discipline or region. Profiles with contact information and examples of each artist's work are included.

<http://www.cgs.org.uk/members>

## The Master Carvers Association

The oldest association of wood and stone carvers in the UK. A list of all of the members of the society is provided under the 'Members' section. Each name acts as a link to a short profile about the artist and their contact details. Alternatively you can search for a craftsman under the 'Specialities' section, where a number of the members have been listed under the 'ecclesiastical' sub-section.

<http://www.mastercarvers.co.uk/members.htm>

## British Woodcarvers Association (BWA)

The BWA website presents a short list of members who are professional carvers and sculptors that accept commissions. The list provides contact details and a short biography about the artist.

<http://www.britishwoodcarversassociation.co.uk/commissions>

## Regional Guilds & Societies

You might have a particularly strong desire to commission an art work by someone from the local area. Many of the UK's counties have guilds and societies for crafts people and artists. These websites allow you to view the members of these guilds and the type of work they do, enabling you to source an appropriate local artist.

Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Devon, East Midlands, Essex, Gloucester, Hampshire & Berkshire, Herefordshire, Lancashire, Oxfordshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Worcestershire

## Other Sources of Help: Commissioning Agents

### Art & Christianity Enquiry (ACE)

Contact Paul Bayley  
t: 020 7374 0600  
e: [artinchurches@acetrust.org](mailto:artinchurches@acetrust.org)

<http://acetrust.org/ecclesiart>

### Modus Operandi

A leading independent agency for art in the public realm.  
t: 020 7490 0009  
e: [info@modusoperandi-art.com](mailto:info@modusoperandi-art.com)

<http://www.modusoperandi-art.com/>

### Jerusalem Trust

Part of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts  
t: 0207 410 0330

<http://www.sfct.org.uk/jerusalem.html>

## Commission4Mission

Aims to encourage the commissioning and placing of contemporary Christian Art in churches.

Contact: Revd Jonathan Evens  
e: [jonathan.evans@btinternet.com](mailto:jonathan.evans@btinternet.com)

<http://commissionformission.blogspot.co.uk/>

Please note that the purpose of this guide is to act as a starting point in your search, it is not an exhaustive list of all the available online directories for artists and crafts people. We hope that you have found this information useful in your search for the right crafts person/artist for your commission. Good luck!

Should you wish to talk to us further, please contact our Divisional Officer, Diana Coulter on t: 020 7898 1860  
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