

ARTIST BRIEF: MANCHESTER STREET — DUCIE STREET WAREHOUSE

Project Overview

Ducie Street Warehouse invites expressions of interest from street artists and muralists to create a site-specific artwork inspired by the building's industrial heritage, architectural character, and the creative, diverse culture of Manchester.

The commissioned work will form multiple visual focal points across the venue, connecting the building's 19th-century warehouse origins with the building and the city's 21st-century identity as a hub for community, food, art, music and ideas.

The project aims to celebrate Manchester's enduring reputation for innovation, resilience, and reinvention, while contributing to the vibrant public realm around Piccadilly Basin and the Northern Quarter.

Theme and Inspiration

Artists are encouraged to explore the intersection of past and present — blending the building's Victorian industrial roots with the creative pulse of modern Manchester. The aim is to celebrate the city's cultural life with innovative, original, imaginative art.

All genres of art will be considered... conceptual, immersive, abstract, surrealist, digital, street, urban, contemporary...

Potential points of inspiration include:

- The building's history as a Victorian cotton warehouse
- Manchester's industrial and musical heritage, from the cotton mills and canals to the Hacienda and warehouse culture.
- The "Mancunian spirit" — proud, independent, forward-thinking, and community-driven.
- The city's transformation from industry to creativity — "from cotton to culture."

The artwork should feel authentic to the place — bold, urban, eclectic and characterful — while being visually engaging for visitors, locals, and guests alike.

Artwork Requirements

- Medium: Outdoor mural, street art, or mixed-media installation (paint, spray, paste-up, or combination).
- Surface: new plasterboard walls, or screens
- Size: See plan attached with sizes
- Durability: Artwork must be suitable for a busy commercial space and last for at least 7+ years, using resistant materials.
- Safety: All materials and techniques must comply with public safety and environmental standards.
- Tone: Vibrant, inclusive, and respectful of heritage

Artist Responsibilities

- Research and interpret the site's heritage and cultural context.
- Produce initial sketches / visual mock-ups for approval.
- Supply own equipment and materials (or specify needs).
- Deliver the work to a high professional standard within agreed timescales.
- Be available for briefings and community/media engagement as required.

Fees

- Proposal to include artist fee, materials, equipment, travel, and installation.
- Payment schedule: 20% on signing, 40% midway, 40% on completion.

Timeline

Call for artists opens – [Insert Date] Deadline for submissions – [Insert Date] Shortlisting / Interviews – [Insert Date] Final artist appointed – [Insert Date] Installation – [Insert Date Range] Unveiling / Launch Event – [Insert Date]

Submission Requirements

Please submit the following by email to marta@follow-friday.com

address):

1. Artist statement and concept outline (max. 500 words).
2. Visual mock-up/concept sketch.
3. Portfolio (up to 6 recent, relevant works).
4. Proposed budget and timeline.
5. Contact details and optional references.

2. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on:

- Creativity, originality, and artistic quality.
- Connection to the site's heritage and Manchester's identity.
- Technical feasibility and durability.
- Value for money.
- Potential for community or visitor engagement.

3. Contact

For enquiries or site visits:

[Name] – Project Coordinator Email: [insert email]

Phone: [insert number]

Location: Ducie Street Warehouse, Manchester M1 2TP

4. Background Context

Originally constructed in the 19th century, Ducie Street Warehouse was part of Manchester's canal-fed goods infrastructure, serving the textile and shipping industries. After decades of disuse, the building was reborn as Native Manchester and Ducie Street Warehouse — a celebrated hospitality and lifestyle venue housing apartments, co-working spaces, food and drink concepts, and cultural events.

Today, the warehouse represents Manchester's creative evolution — where industrial heritage meets urban regeneration, and art, music, and community thrive side by side.