



Can you help us to reimagine?

The Design Commission for Wales invites you as artists, architects, lovers of buildings and places to contribute to our new forthcoming publication, with drawings that reimagine, reinvent or reinterpret the lives and stories of some of Wales' most beautiful, often forgotten structures.

Submissions should include an abstract of up to 400 words accompanied by two sample sketches that to help us understand your drawing technique. A shortlist will be drawn from submissions and selected contributors will be asked to work up beautiful drawings for inclusion in the publication.

Background:

We all encounter structures and buildings every day that are inextricably linked to who we are; to where and how we live. Many are simple forms that don't enjoy the usual popular or media fascination.

We celebrate our national emblems very well, but we also have treasures amongst us that remain uncelebrated and un-loved. These buildings, structures, remnants were nevertheless brought about with passion and skill and are often very beautiful. They deserve to be recognised, celebrated and reimaged.

Many will be under threat, either directly from re-development, or indirectly from a lack of care, money, or interest, and some may be so hidden that we have forgotten them or have not yet woken up to their existence. It is most likely that they are abandoned - their original use now considered obsolete or surplus to requirements. And yet to lose them would be a travesty. They remain key figures in our landscape.

We all know and learn each day about the importance of our famous heritage assets, our tourist attractions, our fabulous towns and our beautiful villages. However, our small country is strewn, often under a canopy of ivy and ignorance, with beautiful buildings and structures that are embedded in their settings.

These buildings and structures often formed part of a past that shaped us, not just in the form of majestic forts and defence systems, but also by being hand crafted and created to serve a need, trade or in many cases a global trade.

It's now time to highlight those things that have formed the backbone to our places - to revisit and rediscover them. We aim to inspire you to help us reveal the beauty, significance and 'afterlives' of these structures and buildings.

Your selection and submission:

We encourage electronic submissions in the form of two sketches no larger than A4 portrait or landscape format which focus on the buildings and structures of

your choice accompanied by a 400word abstract. You may select from any location in Wales and any time period – ancient or modern – but they will all be extraordinary in some way and have no small amount of beauty.

We ask that you aim to reveal the power of their 'afterlives' through illustration drawn expression, using the freedom afforded by hand drawing, where there can be a degree of mysticism and where the weight of a line or a depth of shading can be so evocative of beauty, place and time.

You may use any materials or technique - pencil, inks, charcoal, pastel, crayon, watercolours - in any combination or singular form as long as your submission is hand drawn. Computer generated drawings cannot be submitted.

Your abstract of no more than 400words should accompany your sketch. It should describe your approach to a text that will accompany the final drawings. You may write alone or choose to work with a colleague, author or poet providing you are able to convey your approach to the structure of the text and to reflecting an emotional, creative response - not a literal description.

You do not have to be living or working in Wales to submit, but the subject/object of your submission must be located in Wales – whether north or south, coastal or industrial, monumental or discrete, rural or urban, immediately recognisable or largely undiscovered.

How to submit:

Two sketches in high resolution jpeg, and 400word abstract should be electronically submitted to **connect@dcfw.org**

Deadline:

5pm Monday 22nd March 2021

What happens next:

The Design Commission aims to celebrate the results in a publication of selected beautiful drawings accompanied by succinct but evocative text. A selection of up to 12 submissions is anticipated for inclusion in the publication by the Design Commission.

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