

**Artist Commission**  
**Maritime Memories Machine legacy boxes in the *Sea Things* Gallery**

<p>The Endeavour project</p>	<p><i>Endeavour</i> is an exciting 3 year project which will expand the National Maritime Museum’s public space by 40% creating four new permanent galleries about global maritime exploration and encounter. The overarching aim for the <i>Endeavour galleries project</i> is to increase audience access to the NMM’s collections, physically and intellectually. In doing this, the Museum has the opportunity to reposition itself as a truly national collection representing the identity of an Island Nation.</p>
<p>The Maritime Memories Machine project</p>	<p>The UK is intimately connected to the sea – no matter where people live in the UK they are no more than 70.2 miles from the sea. Our shared identity and history as a nation is firmly rooted in our relationship with the sea and how it has shaped lives and society.</p> <p><u>Maritime Memories Machine tour</u>  NMM created a story collecting machine that toured the country engaging people in playful participatory, immersive and entertaining experiences and collecting stories of their connections to the sea. The aim of the tour was to capture a picture of our nation’s relationship to the sea today. The <i>Maritime Memories Machine</i> toured the country from June to August 2017, visiting areas of lowest arts participation and high social deprivation to engage those not normally participating in the arts. It gave the National Maritime Museum’s national audiences the opportunity to find out more about the Museum, take part in creative activities, explore their own connection with the sea and include their voice in the <i>Sea Things</i> gallery. All the contributions from the tour will be fed into a digital interactive in the new Sea Things gallery opening in 2018. Alongside this, six boxes will be elevated and fixed at the entrance of the gallery to highlight the project (<b>please see Appendix A</b>).</p> <p><u>Sea Things gallery</u>  Sea Things is a massed collections display, offering a playful and participatory experience for visitors to find their own connection with the sea. At the centre of the space a mass of objects will be displayed on top of digital screens with waves lapping, suggesting they have been washed up on a seashore. Interpretation for these objects includes voices from groups who have chosen the objects for display, to give visitors the opportunity to hear personal stories and connections and draw out their own.</p>

	<p>A wall of ships badges talks to the theme of identity as does a series of busts – three of which will be the result of co-curation projects with different community groups. Maritime sayings and sounds cover another wall of the gallery and provide fun interactive experiences for visitors. Behind the seashore a huge display case will enclose a flotilla of ship models and visitors will be able to take a quiz to work out the different roles at sea and what might suit their own interests.</p> <p>There will also be an interactive screen that gives visitors the opportunity to see a short film about the Maritime Memories Machine tour, flick through the stories and memories captured by theme and add their own.</p> <p><b>Please see Appendix B for images of the gallery.</b></p>
<p>The opportunity:</p>	<p>The Artist will produce six works one for each of the six fixed, elevated 'boxes' of curiosity that will be an attractor at the entrance to the new Sea Things gallery.</p> <p>The pieces will together represent the nation's connection to the sea drawing on over 1500 stories and memories gathered from people around the country during the Maritime Memories Machine tour. The artist is expected to study and interpret the thousands of memories and connections to the sea collected from the tour to use as inspiration. <b>Please see Appendix C for example stories.</b></p> <p>Interpretation for the six objects and the project will be available on the digital tablets below the display. These tablets are the main interpretation for the gallery which has minimal text as is highly participatory.</p>
<p>Aims and objectives of the project:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To represent Britain's shared heritage and identity as an island nation</li> <li>● To creatively interpret the over 1500 stories and memories collected by the Maritime Memories Machine tour</li> <li>● To attract and welcome visitors into the Sea Things gallery</li> </ul>

Scope and exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The gallery is planned as permanent, and therefore intended to last for 10-15 years. The materials should be developed in consultation with the NMM gallery team with this lifespan in mind.</li> <li>• Materials need to adhere to the gallery guidelines in consultation with the Conservation team. <b>Please see appendix D.</b></li> <li>• The work must fit within, and visually fill, the physical constraints of the boxes: internal dimensions are 264mm x 264mm x 264mm</li> <li>• The six boxes will each have 2 LED spotlights which can be mounted at the top and/or of the bottom of each box</li> <li>• Please see the drawing attached</li> </ul>
Timings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Artists are invited to <b>apply by 2 February 2018</b></li> <li>- Artist selected by 16 February 2018</li> <li>- Initial meeting with museum team w/c 19 February 2018</li> <li>- Artwork plans finalized in conversation with the museum by 19 March 2018</li> <li>- Work to be completed by 18 May 2018</li> <li>- Delivery and installation in conjunction with RMG staff in June</li> <li>- Gallery to open September 2018</li> </ul> <p>Applications need to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CV and covering letter describing your interest in the commission, relevant experience and initial thoughts for the commission</li> <li>- A pdf portfolio of work</li> </ul> <p><b>Please send applications to <a href="mailto:rcroker@rmg.co.uk">rcroker@rmg.co.uk</a> by 10am 2 February 2018</b></p> <p>Any questions please email by 5pm 6 February 2018.</p> <p>Please watch the film about the Maritime Memories Machine project to help with your application: <a href="https://youtu.be/kg3MNwv7eQE">https://youtu.be/kg3MNwv7eQE</a></p>
Fees and budget	£9,000 including fees and materials
Deadline for proposals	10am 12 February 2018

Appendix A: Legacy boxes



**Funding raised by  
The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



diagram



## Appendix B: Images of the Sea Things gallery



## Appendix C: example stories

*"Respect the sea. When I was five, my parents and I reached a beach. Whilst they were "setting up" I ran into the sea. I only went a short way in but stepped down into a "step" like a trench. The water covered me and I panicked. Luckily my dad saw me waving my arms and came and took me out. Always take care, never underestimate the sea."* Anon, Leicester

*"Liverpool - my family is from Liverpool. Many worked on the dock or for Ellermans. In the late 70s and early 80s they were all out of work. My grandfather was a carpenter on board and shored up a torpedoed ship."*  
Andy Walmsley, Coventry

*"When my brother and I were children in the 1950s we holidayed at Walton-on-the-Naze. Photographs show us sitting atop huge sea mines- left-over from WWII."*  
Margaret Anthoni, Bexhill-on-Sea

## Appendix D: Materials

- Metals (Stone, bronze and resin etc.)
- Minerals
- Organics (fur, wood, hair, shells etc.)\*
- Plastics\*
- Textiles\*
- Paper\*

\*These possibilities will be discussed case by case during application stage. Please email [RCrocker@rmg.co.uk](mailto:RCrocker@rmg.co.uk) if you have any queries.