

Le Radar - Call for applications - Silkscreen commission « letters – patterns – images »



As the 2025 winner of the *Artothèques en Ruralités* (Art lending library in countryside) call for projects, *Le Radar Espace d'art actuel* in Bayeux is launching a print commission inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry, with the support of the CNAP and the French Ministry of Culture.

Located in the historic center of Bayeux, Le Radar plays a very active role in the town's cultural offering, alongside several heritage sites, including the cathedral and the Baron Gérard Museum of Art and History on the same street. With the closure of the Tapestry Museum for renovation in 2025 and the prospect of the millennium of William the Conqueror in 2027, the aim of the commission is to develop different interpretations of this historical artefact whilst continuing its mission to support contemporary creation and to educate the wider public about visual culture.

The subject of the Bayeux Tapestry should not be understood in a monolithic way, nor is it merely a matter of seeing it as a repertoire of forms, the grammar of cross-stitch or medieval costumes. Having entered popular visual culture through films, TV series and various interpretations in press cartoons, the Tapestry has played as much a part in the development of national narratives in France and Britain as it has in the propaganda campaigns waged by both the Nazis and the Allies during the Second World War. This history of reappropriation, up to the D-Day landings, can thus inform contemporary thinking on the concept of universal heritage and the integration of the history of the Duchy of Normandy into the formation of French and British identities. As we know it, and despite its 70 metres in length, the Bayeux Tapestry is not complete. Its narrative ends with the Battle of Hastings, before even William's coronation as King of England and the years of war that followed to consolidate his power. A true artefact of soft power, the Tapestry speaks of conquest, a change of ruling dynasty and a new geopolitical unity, even as chivalry was still in its infancy. It is precisely in all these dimensions and interpretations that we invite the artists to take on the commission.

Many gaps remain, and we do not know for certain who embroidered the Tapestry, although it is likely that it took shape in England before crossing the Channel. These gaps can, of course, be explored by artists, just as Hélène Delprat, winner of the Normandy region's commission to create an Aubusson tapestry, chose to continue the Tapestry by depicting events not shown in the original.

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Sometimes described as one of the earliest comic strips, the Bayeux Tapestry lends itself to numerous interpretations. It provides a broad framework that allows for creative freedom and highlights the richness and diversity of contemporary visual storytelling. This commission aims to present a living heritage through artistic reinterpretations that will serve as points for discussion and exchange.

Artists can find further information on the Tapestry, as well as a digital version, at this address:

<https://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/la-tapisserie-de-bayeux/decouvrir-la-tapisserie-de-bayeux/explorer-la-tapisserie-de-bayeux-en-ligne/>

The aim of this commission is to produce a series of prints based on the Bayeux Tapestry, which will be showcased in a series of exhibitions scheduled for 2027 across France, the United Kingdom and Jersey.

The prints, in landscape format, must measure 70 cm high by 100 cm wide in order to establish a formal relationship with the Bayeux Tapestry.

The works will be produced using SILK-SCREEN PRINTING, with a maximum of four passes.

Principles of the commission

This edition of prints, intended to enrich the art library's collections, will be available for loan to members of the public and can also be presented as a themed exhibition, incorporating the Modul'Arto units which, in primary and secondary schools, as well as hospitals and other public institutions, support Radar's cultural and educational initiatives. Among the various prints, the series may also be added to public and private collections and featured in various exhibitions, enriched, depending on the context, by different works or documents. Le Radar intends to bring this edition of prints to life through various partnerships and is actively committed to its dissemination, notably by developing an educational booklet and a ready-to-use kit, as well as offering a supporting programme and other workshop opportunities.

Commission

The call for applications aims to select artists or artist collectives to create prints.

The successful applicants will receive a fee of €1,550 (including VAT), covering the design, production supervision and transfer of copyright. A commission contract will be drawn up

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between the successful applicants and Le Radar. Le Radar will cover the costs of producing the prints (paper, ink and expertise) as well as a return trip to Paris to finalise the project at the studio. Travel expenses will be reimbursed at a flat rate of approximately €150.

Artists will be supported in the implementation of their projects by the Institut sérigraphique and Séverine Bascouert, partners in this commission.

Eligibility

This call for applications is open to any artist or collective of artists working in the fields of visual arts, graphic arts and comics. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a professional track record, evidenced by exhibitions or publications organised by venues or professional publishers.

There are no nationality requirements, but applicants must be legally resident in France, Great Britain or the Channel Islands.

Application

Applications must be submitted by midnight on 17 May, exclusively by email to commandeestampes@le-radar.fr.

Any incomplete application will not be considered.

Selection Committee

Le Radar team: Manuela Tetrel, Laure Julien, Elise Dubuis, Elona d'Andrea, Camille Chevallier-Dufrene

Séverine Bascouert, Institut Sérigraphique

Henri Guelle, commission coordinator

Aurélien Marie, coordinator of the third place L'arbre à Bayeux

Thierry Weyd, artist, publisher and lecturer at esam Caen-Cherbourg

Selection

Selection will be based on the application pack alone

The application pack to be assessed must include, within a limit of 15 pages:

administrative form

CV and portfolio

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statement of intent (maximum 2,500 characters) outlining the proposed technique, accompanied by a sketch or any relevant material

Criteria for assessing applications:

The artist's place within the current creative landscape

The suitability of the proposed approach to the commission

The relevance of the proposal in terms of the print's potential for distribution

Process and criteria

The results will be communicated by email before being published on the Radar website and its social media channels.

Winners will have until 1 November 2026 to produce and deliver all the required copies.

The terms and conditions for the execution of each winner's project will be defined with them in a commission contract drawn up by Le Radar

Schedule

Applications accepted from 20 March to 17 May 2026

Pre-selection committee meeting on 5 June 2026

Announcement of winners on 12 June 2026

Production of the commission to begin in mid-June

Receipt of prints between mid-October and early November

Early 2027: promotion of the commission through various exhibitions

Contact

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Print Commission Coordinator

commandeestampes@le-radar.fr