

Clarence Bicknell (1842-1918)

Exhibition in The Guildhall London in 2024

A Victorian Polymath in the Maritime Alps: A Passion for Wild Flowers

Invitation to sponsors

The exhibition of botanical art and other creations of Clarence Bicknell 1842-1918 in the Guildhall London in 2024 and possibly Genoa back to back presents exciting opportunities for sponsors, donors and other stakeholders. The exhibition plans arise from the Anglo-Italian trade and cooperation initiative instigated by **Michael Mainelli, an Italian citizen, who is expected to be elected as Lord Mayor of the City of London** and is already supported by the **Mayor of Genoa, Marco Bucci**, by Genoa's Honorary **Ambassador to the World Francesca Centurione-Scotto Boschieri** (also President of the Friends of the Hanbury Gardens) and by organisations and individuals in their Anglo-Italian round table.

The exhibition has particular value because the artist has not been yet been exposed in major exhibitions; visitors will have the joy of discovering a new talent even if his creations are from a century ago. The Guildhall Art Gallery will bring to life the links between Bicknell's work and the *arts-and-crafts*, the *pre-Raphaelites*, symmetrical floral patterns like de Morgan's celebrated at the Guildhall Art Gallery in the 2019 *Sublime Symmetry* exhibition and the *Stuff and Nonsense* of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear who were both inspired by visiting Liguria in Bicknell's time. Works by other artists in the genre and those with Anglo-Italian relevance will also illuminate the exhibition.

Clarence Bicknell's 2024 exhibition has no public funding yet and support is invited from businesses with interests both in Italy and in the UK, from those wanting to improve the visibility of the cultural and social responsibility efforts, from those wanting to be associated with world class art identifiable with acknowledged talent and movements and from those embracing the excitement of talent which have not yet seen the light of day.

The present estimate of funding required for the exhibition at the Guildhall (where rental of the space and some other costs have been waived) is **£95,000** of which we hope £75,000 would be from a single title sponsor. The costs include professional curation, loans of art pieces from other institutions, wall-mounted reproductions and information panels in Italian, French and English, hanging, swipe-screen TV monitors, projections of film and art stills, visitors' catalogue etc. (detailed budget available). The continuation of the show in Genoa would be about half that amount.

You can read the full proposal at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1p9H6rQrIYGmrZOFWcBjLtFwltJRO1b6>

You are invited to contact the following to find out how you could be involved...

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Guildhall
Art Gallery.

