

TALES IN SOMBRE TONES

Our origins

It started, as so many wonderful things do, with a good book (even if we do say so ourselves). Tales in Sombre Tones is the title of an illustrated anthology of gothic tales co created by American author Sean Walter and British artist Karen Ruffles of Drawing in Dark. Inclusion, not exclusion is the focus of all the Tales in Sombre Tones projects and so accessible versions of art and literature are being created, such as 3d versions of the illustrations, designed to be experienced by touch, for the blind and partially sighted.



2d illustration on the left, 3d printed version on the right (cover image 'Hunted').

This philosophy extends to the online version of the shows, aimed at those unable to attend in person. The website has been made accessible by enabling keyboard navigation, so users can work their way around the site using keys instead of a mouse, especially helpful for those with low vision or motor impairment and has been optimised for text to speech readers. The website is currently home to video readings with sign language and subtitles, animations and illustrations as well as behind the scenes articles chronicling the development of the project and we are developing a virtual exhibition that can be explored much like walking around in a video game.

Sponsorship details

- We have 24 illustrations to convert from 2d to a physical 3d print, so this is a limited opportunity.
- £1500 covers our costs for a single print – multiple prints can be sponsored.
- Direct branding – your company name alongside the artwork you have helped to create.
- Ideal Corporate Social Responsibility project.
- Immediate promotion, via our website and social media.
- Future benefits – in person exhibitions, inclusion in goody bags, on show posters and in press releases.



A previous pop up event at All Saints Church in York

What we are doing

We started this project supported by Arts Council England, who helped us to get sign language translations of our readings recorded, the website built, our initial test print and a series of pop up exhibitions in venues from a working church (pictured above) to a contemporary white wall gallery.

We've spoken to organisations and venues across the UK, USA and Europe and it's become very clear that there is a real need for fully inclusive events rather than those created for a specific group – the deaf and blind population naturally just want to go to the same things as everyone else. The general public also benefit from a new and exciting way of experiencing artwork, as the prints remove a very literal barrier between viewer and art. The original charcoal illustrations remain behind glass but these prints are designed to be picked up and interacted with.

Mutual benefit and long term partnership

By sponsoring a print now, you are helping us to create the next phase of access materials that we were testing in a soft rollout while we prepare to tour again. That helps us to get out there as quickly as possible and in return, we will immediately add your name to our sponsor list and do feature about your company and why we're such a good fit. When tour time rolls around, your brand will be displayed alongside your print at every show (and mentioned in the audio description), as well as on promotional materials like posters, flyers etc. Copies of show videos and photographs of your sponsored print will be provided for your own use.



One of our previous sponsors who supported an opening night party.

To get involved, email Karen and Sean at talesinsombretones@gmail.com , contact us via the website at talesinsombretones.com or on Facebook [@TalesinSombreTones](https://www.facebook.com/TalesinSombreTones)