

Annual Open FAQs

- **About the RWA annual open**

The RWA's Annual Open Exhibition is now in its 169th year. Anyone can enter their work for this mixed discipline show. We welcome all kinds of artwork and expect to include painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, film, sculpture and illustration by artists ranging from leading professionals, including RWA Academicians, to emerging talent, from across the UK and beyond. Submissions are welcome from unknown, emerging and established artists of any age or background. A selection panel assesses every entry entirely on its own merits, rather than on the artist's CV, so you have the same chance to exhibit whether you're a full-time professional artist or this is your first ever artwork. All work should be available for sale and the exhibition attracts art-lovers and art-buyers from far and wide.

- **How do I enter?**

Submissions will be open between 29 June and 14 August. Once submissions are live you can enter by using our Online Exhibition Submission System (OESS) which can be accessed via rwaopen.co.uk

- **I don't have a computer, how can I enter?**

If you do not have access to a computer please contact us and we will assist you further. Please email curating@rwa.org.uk or call 0117 906 7601

- **How and when should I get my work to you?**

Both stages of selection will be undertaken digitally, and only those works selected for likely inclusion in the exhibition will need to be delivered to the RWA. You should check your account on our submission website, rwaopen.co.uk, on 25 August 2022 to see if your work has been selected. If it has, you will need to arrange for delivery of your work on 16, 17 or 18 September by booking a delivery slot online via our website.

If you are unable to deliver in person, you will need to arrange for a courier to do this on your behalf on 16, 17 or 18 September (between 9am – 5pm). Please email curating@rwa.org.uk to confirm when it is due to arrive.

- **Can I book transport with you?**

Yes, the RWA will be arranging 2 art transport vehicles; one collecting work from Penzance and Exeter and the other collecting work from London. Collection from all locations is currently scheduled for 16 September, and transport for selected works can be booked online via the website between 26 August and 1 September.

- **When do I need to enter by?**

Submissions will open on 29 June and close on 14 August, at midday.

Other key dates:

- 25 August 2022: results go out to artists
- 26 August – 1 September 2022: transport booking available
- 16 September 2022: Couriers collecting work from Penzance, Exeter and London
- 16 – 18 September 2022: hand-in days
- 8 October 2022: Exhibition opens
- 8 January 2023: Exhibition closes
- 14 – 16 January 2023: Handback days (all works)

- **How many works can I enter and do I get a discount?**

Students, RWA Friends and RWA Artist Network members all receive discounted entry. Our Academicians (who pay an annual subscription fee) receive free submission.

- **Standard Price** (Up to 3 works could be selected for the final show per applicant.)
Maximum Artwork Entries: 3
First or Single Entry Price: £21.00
Additional Entries: £21.00 per artwork
- **Students** (Up to 3 works could be selected for the final show per applicant.)
Maximum Artwork Entries: 3
First or Single Entry Price: £15.90
Additional Entries: £15.90 per artwork
- **Friends** (Up to 3 works could be selected for the final show per applicant.)
Maximum Artwork Entries: 3
First or Single Entry Price: £15.90
Additional Entries: £15.90 per artwork
- **Artist Network Members** (Up to 3 works could be selected for the final show per applicant.)
Maximum Artwork Entries: 3
First or Single Entry Price: £10.50
Additional Entries: £10.50 per artwork
- **Academicians** (A maximum of 4 works may be submitted by RWA Academicians, and 2 are guaranteed selection.)
Maximum Artwork Entries: 4
Free Entry

- **If my work doesn't get selected can I get a refund?**

If an artist enters their work and changes their mind *before* the submission entry deadline they can withdraw their work on the OESS and receive a refund. However, *after* the entry deadline they will be unable to make any amendments to their entry and will not be able to get a refund – please refer to the terms and conditions for more information.

- **My work isn't a painting. Can I still enter?**

Yes! We exhibit everything from sound pieces to animations to iPad drawings. There are some guidelines and size regulations for each category. Please view the regulations at the end of this FAQ page.

- **I've never exhibited work in a gallery before, can I still enter?**

Yes! Anyone can enter their work for this mixed discipline show. You do not need to be art trained or to have been in an exhibition before. We will show painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, film, sculpture and illustration by artists ranging from leading professionals, to emerging talent, from across the UK and beyond, and there is no lower or upper age limit – artists have ranged in age from 15 to over 100.

- **If my work is selected, will it definitely be exhibited?**

We try to include every selected work in the exhibition, but sometimes it just won't all fit in the galleries. If your work has been selected, but we haven't been able to include it in the show, we'll let you know before the exhibition opens, and will still include it in the online version of the exhibition, and will list you as 'selected not hung'.

- **How does the selection process work?**

Every entry will be viewed and voted on by 5 of our Academicians, each representing different media and spheres of interest. From this initial process, around 1500 works that have scored highest will then be viewed by the whole panel, meeting at the RWA to view and vote on projected images of the shortlisted works. The panel will be told the medium, size and title of each work, but not the artist's name, so voting will be entirely on the artwork itself.

- **What should I do to try to get my work selected?**

Make sure you've taken the best possible image of your work, photographed in good light, and with any distracting background cropped out. Remember that the selectors are only voting on the work and will not see any supporting statements or information: it's purely the strength of the image that will get you through. We always seek to represent a wide variety of subjects, media and styles, so just be yourself and GOOD LUCK!

- **I'm having technical difficulties with the Online Exhibition Submission System... help!**

OESS are available to support with technical problems, please contact Mark on mark@oess.uk

Medium specific guidelines

Two-Dimensional Work

- Two-dimensional work must not exceed 214 x 214cm (7ft x 7ft).
- The total size of a diptych or triptych must not exceed 214 x 214cm (7ft x 7ft).
- Diptych or triptychs must be clearly labelled in large letters on the back of the work.
- Diptych or triptychs must have one title and can only be sold as one work.

Painting, Drawing and Mixed Media

- Reproductions of paintings and drawings, made by any process, are not eligible. This includes reproduction giclée prints.

Printmaking

- All printmaking techniques are eligible e.g. etching, woodcut, lithograph, screen print, digital and photographic.
- Prints may be unique (one-off) pieces or they may be signed, numbered and a limited edition.
- Digital prints are eligible only if it is clear to the selectors that they are original artworks made by the creative use of digital technology and that they are not reproduction prints.

- Artists are permitted to sell unframed multiples of selected work. Please see Section 12: Sale of Work.

Photography

- Any medium is acceptable, including digital images, photography and photographic processes.

iPad Drawings

- Digital artwork produced on an iPad is accepted but must be printed and displayed appropriately.
- As per Printmaking it must be made clear to the selectors that they are original artworks made by the creative use of digital technology and that they are not reproduction prints.
- The work should be numbered to denote edition size and as per Printmaking entries you must confirm how many multiples are available for sale.
- iPad drawings cannot be displayed on iPads, unless provided by the artist.
- Reproductions of paintings or drawings are ineligible.

Three-Dimensional Work

Sculpture

- The maximum floor space for sculpture is 1m x 1m (3.3 x 3.3ft).
- Please include any specific display instructions in Special Instructions when submitting on OESS.
- Artists are permitted to sell multiples of selected work, e.g. bronzes.
- Please note that it may not be possible to display work as requested, e.g. although we aim to display work as appropriate we cannot guarantee that specific plinth sizes can be met.
- Sculptures must weigh no more than is safe for two people to lift – 50kg
- The dimensions of the RWA lift are 300cm height, 290cm depth and 200cm width.
- The RWA has limited storage space therefore we ask that any particularly large, heavy or fragile sculpture that is not hung at the final selection stage is collected by Thursday 6 October. If you are unsure if your work merits this classification, please call the RWA to discuss before submitting.
- Please ensure floor- and plinth-based works are stable.
- When submitting sculpture, please consider the health and safety implications of exhibiting work in a public place. Where work is deemed to be too great a health and safety risk for inclusion, the decision of the RWA is final.

Installation

- Maximum size must adhere to either 2D or 3D requirements (see above).
- Please note that artists are not permitted to set-up installations in advance and must include full instructions for assembly and display with their entry. All installations are assembled and installed by RWA Technicians.
- Installation components must not weigh more than is safe for two people to lift – 50kg (see details on regional transport for further restrictions).
- The dimensions of the RWA lift are 300cm height, 290cm depth and 200cm width.
- The RWA has limited storage space therefore we ask that any large, heavy or fragile installation components that are not hung at the final selection stage are collected by Thursday 6 October. If you are unsure if your work merits this classification, please call the RWA to discuss before submitting.
- Please ensure floor- and plinth-based works are stable.

- Please consider the health and safety implications of exhibiting work in a public place. Where work is deemed to be a health and safety risk the decision of the RWA is final.
- Please contact the RWA if you are unsure if your entry adheres to the Terms and Conditions.

Artists' Books

- Artist books are permitted for entry.
- Please include display instructions in Special Instructions if necessary.

Architecture

- Architectural entries can incorporate drawings, photography, digital imagery, sketches and plans as well as architectural models.
- For architectural models size restrictions apply as per sculpture.
- Architects can enter as individuals or as a practice. The maximum number of entries applies in both cases.

Moving Image

How to enter Moving Image Works

- Entries should be made online as per entry guidelines.
- Please include a still image with your submission, and, if possible, a URL to YouTube, Vimeo, etc.
- Entries (by File Transfer or memory stick) must also be received by the RWA by 5pm on 11 August. If you are posting a memory stick, please clearly label your package 'Submission – 169 AOE' and send FAO Olive Haigh. Files can be transferred using the email address curating@rwa.org.uk

Moving Image Regulations

- Moving image works should be a maximum duration of 10 minutes in length.
- Single screen works or single channel works only.
- All files should be submitted in the following file format: Quicktime Pro. Res. 422 (HD or 1920 x 1080 preferred, aspect ratio 16:9). Files not submitted in this format are not valid.
- Please do not include title screens or credits as part of your file. The RWA will format these in adherence to house style using the information you have entered online. Any additional artists/practitioners/funders that you wish to credit on the work label should be included on your entry under 'Special Instructions' on the OESS.
- Work will either be shown on a flat screen 43inch monitor.

Works Inadmissible

- Works in frames or on stretchers to which mirror plates cannot be easily fixed.
- Unframed works on paper, other than those that are unframed for reasons that are part of the overall aesthetic.
- Reproduction prints, where the created original image is in another medium – eg a giclee print of a painting, drawing or etching.
- Due to installation limitations, we are unable to accept site-specific work entries.
- Work containing offensive material. Please note that the decision of what constitutes offensive material is at the discretion of the RWA.