

RWA Exhibition Policy

Exhibition Policy Statement

The Royal West of England Academy: World-class art in a regional context

As England's only regional Royal Academy of Art, the RWA places artists, the practice of art and arts education at its core. Our exhibitions reflect the art and cultural heritage of the West of England, placing the region's art within a national and international context.

We regularly exhibit contemporary art alongside historical work, aiming to inspire conversation and create a dialogue with our artistic heritage including work that both challenges and enlightens, and giving opportunities to exhibit to emerging artists as well as showcasing renowned names.

Our primary focus is on the plastic arts (e.g. painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and photography), reflecting our status as an Academy – a place for learning and demonstrating visual art skills. We have a particular emphasis on British Art since 1880, which reflects the strengths of the RWA's permanent collection and our Academicians as an ever-evolving resource. In doing so, we aim to complement the curatorial policies of other visual arts venues in the region. In bringing world-class exhibitions to the region we aim to broaden the public's knowledge of fine art, introducing diverse audiences to artists and artwork old and new.

As a self-supporting Charity, our exhibitions programme contributes to our economic sustainability by both sustaining and broadening our audience and augmenting our income streams.

Exhibition Aims

The RWA welcomes exhibition proposals from artists, independent curators and practitioners. Proposals should explicitly provide a clear rationale for approaching the RWA as a venue, taking into account our mission statement above. Proposals should match our 'exhibition aims' as closely as possible (where relevant) and should consider the Academy's position as an independent charity reliant on commercial income from exhibition ticket sales.

- Exhibitions will predominantly focus on the plastic arts including painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, works on paper and sculpture
- The exhibition programme will generate dialogue between historic and contemporary artwork (with a particular focus on 1880 to the present, reflecting the permanent collection)
- Exhibitions should aim to broaden the public's understanding of art
- Exhibitions should have a regional focus or context
- Exhibitions are curated by a combination of internal curation, co-curation and external curation or hired exhibitions
- We welcome exhibition proposals which can be developed for touring purposes
- We welcome proposals that explore and celebrate cultural diversity
- The exhibition programme encourages the inclusion and representation by Academicians, past and/or present

All proposals should be submitted using the RWA's Exhibition Proposal Form which can be downloaded here and should be returned to Kathryn.johnson@rwa.org.uk If you would like to discuss a proposal in advance of submission please contact Kathryn Johnson, Curator and Head of Exhibitions, on 0117 906 7601.