



Becoming an Academician – Introduction

The RWA is one of five Royal Academies of Great Britain and Ireland. It is an independent body of up to 150 practicing artists, known as Academicians, who are elected by their peers.

The RWA exists to promote and encourage the appreciation, understanding and practice of all forms of visual art and architecture. It presents a regular programme of exhibitions celebrating World Class art of all periods and nurturing early career artists.

We welcome practitioners in all forms of visual art including architecture and the built environment, installation, time-based practice and video art.

Academicians are elected on the basis that they are practicing artists of exceptional ability with a proven track record of exhibitions and that they create art works of consistently high standard. Elected Academicians are expected to make a commitment to taking an active role in the activities of the Academy by serving on committees, involving themselves in the education and outreach work and assisting with exhibitions. Academicians are required to support the Academy by submitting work to the Annual Open Exhibition. They are encouraged to attend the Annual Academicians Forum, Private Views and other social events.

It is not an essential requirement, but applicants will be asked if they have previously had work selected for the Annual Open Exhibition and will also be asked to consider whether their location will preclude their active involvement in the Academy. New graduates are not normally considered before three years have elapsed from the date of their graduation.

On election Academicians are required to donate a recent work, known as the Diploma Work, to the Academy's Permanent Collection. All members pay an annual subscription of £200 which can be paid monthly, quarterly or annually.

On the recommendation of the selection committee and at the discretion of the Academician's Council, a bursary covering the first two years of their membership fees will be offered to up to two early career artists.

For initial enquiries and any questions please contact artists@rwa.org.uk RWA Queen's Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1PX

Becoming an Academician – How to Apply

Register an interest

If you are selected to exhibit in the annual open Autumn Exhibition you may like to register an interest in becoming an Academician by giving your name to the Academicians' Membership Administrator. Academicians can then be informed of your interest to enable them to familiarise themselves with your work prior to a formal application. You are required to register on an annual basis. It is not necessary to register in order to apply directly in January.

How to Apply

To apply send an application form together with the following information to the Academicians' Membership Administrator by 31st January of any year.

Please present your application under the following headings writing your name on each page and clearly numbering and leaving a space between each of your replies. Include dates where applicable.

- 1) Why do you want to become a member of the RWA and how can you contribute to the activities of the RWA. (max 150 words)
- 2) CV of Exhibitions, Gallery representation, Commissions, Works in Public Collections (if applicable)
- 3) Prizes, awards, publications, etc.
- 4) Teaching/lecturing experience, workshops, residencies undertaken etc.
- 5) Other relevant work experience and employment.
- 7) Qualifications, training, courses attended,
Have you exhibited at the RWA (give exhibitions and dates) and/or been involved in its activities
- 8) 'Artists Statement'. This should be a brief piece describing your work, practice and any other intellectual concerns (max. 300 words).
- 9) Maximum of 10 digital images of your work which can include videos of installation and time-based work. It is important that you state the medium or materials used, dimensions or scale and dates when made.

N.B. Catalogues of exhibitions, publications etc. can be brought to the Academy if you are short listed for Stage 2 of the selection process – see procedure.

Procedure

All applications need to be submitted by **31st January** of any year to be considered by the Candidate Selection Committee.

There are two selection stages

Stage I. Selection of candidates by written application and images to be short listed for stage two.

Stage 2. Short listed candidates will be invited to submit four works to the annual Open Autumn Exhibition. In order to present an informed overview of your work, especially work in three dimensions, you might be asked to submit additional material such as photographs or videos.

The Academicians will then vote according to the number of places available which is determined by the Academicians Council.

Information provided by the candidates will be made available to members eligible to vote at the beginning of the ballot

Following the Autumn Exhibition candidates will be informed of the outcome of the vote and the names of the newly elected members will be formally introduced at the subsequent RWA Academicians Annual Forum in May

Applicants who are unsuccessful at the selection or election stages are eligible to make two further applications for election to membership within a period of five years.

The decisions of the Academicians' vote is final