



Becoming an Academician

The RWA is one of five Royal Academies of Great Britain and Ireland. It is an independent body of up to 150 Academicians elected by their peers.

The RWA exists to promote and encourage the appreciation of the visual arts by presenting a regular and varied programme of exhibitions, by forging education links with schools, universities and art colleges, by maintaining and developing an important permanent collection of art works and by acting as a major regional venue.

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

While there are no age limits, applicants, with the exception of mature graduates, who have completed their first degree will not normally be considered before three years have elapsed from the date of their graduation.

Academicians are elected on the basis that they are practicing artists of ability and experience, creators of art works judged to be of a consistently high standard and willing to undertake the commitments and responsibilities of the elected membership.

Elected members are expected to contribute to the activities of the Academy which may include serving on the Council and other committees as well as exhibiting in the annual Autumn Exhibition and other exhibitions.

Members may be requested to take an active role in education events, outreach work and assisting with exhibitions as well attending Private Views and social functions. Attendance at the Artists' Forum is strongly encouraged.

New members 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.

On the recommendation of the selection committee and at the discretion of 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 questions please contact Jess Kirkby, Assistant Curator:
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