

Annual Open FAQs

- **About the RWA annual open**

The RWA's Annual Open Exhibition is now in its 170th 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 architecture 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 from 28 April and close on 5 July at midnight. You can enter by using our Online Exhibition Submission System

<http://royalwestofenglandacademy.oess1.uk>.

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

Both stages of selection will be undertaken online, and only those which are final selected will need to be delivered to the RWA. To see your results you need to log into your account (<http://royalwestofenglandacademy.oess1.uk>) from 21 July 2023 after 12pm. If your work has been selected, you will need to arrange for delivery of your work on 18, 19 or 20 September by booking a delivery slot online via our website. Should your work be selected you will receive more detailed information on this, and if you are unable to deliver in person, you will need to arrange for a courier too on your behalf.

- **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 dates and times from all locations will be confirmed closer to results day.

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

- **Submission open:** Friday 28 April 2023
- **Entry Deadline:** Wednesday 5 July 2023, midnight

Other key dates:

- **Results Live:** Saturday 22 July 2023 after 12pm (artists need to log in to their OESS account to view their results)
- **Hand-In days:** Friday 18, Saturday 19, Sunday 20 August 2023, 10am - 4pm
- **Private View:** Thursday 7 September 2023, 6-8pm

- **Exhibition Open to Public:** 9 September 2023 – 14 January 2024
- **Collection of unsold work:** Early January, TBC

- **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 a huge variety of work, from moving image to architectural models. There are some guidelines and size regulations for each category. Please view the regulations in the T&Cs [here](#).

- **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, and there is no lower or upper age limit. All your personal details will be hidden from the selectors as it is an anonymous selection process.

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

We try to include every selected work in the exhibition, but sometimes we can't fit all work in the galleries. If your work has been selected, but we haven't been able to include it in the show, we will let you know before the exhibition opens.

- **If my work is selected but I can't get it to the gallery, can it still be featured on your webpage? Or can I send in an alternative work?**

We're sorry but if you can't get your work to the gallery in time for it to be hung we cannot include it in our online exhibition or catalogue. You cannot send in an alternative piece because the selectors would specifically have wanted the artwork selected.

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

There will be 2 rounds of selection. In the first round the selection panel will review all works online and vote on every work. From this initial process, approximately 1500 works that have scored highest will then be viewed again by the panel, meeting at the RWA to view and vote on 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've forgot my password for the Online Exhibition Submission System... help!**

Please contact Marc on marc@oess.uk

- **Can you help me with the OESS system?**

We appreciate that this process is not accessible to everyone so if you have difficulties then please get in touch by ringing the reception desk on 0117 973 5129 or emailing curating@rwa.org.uk. We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to enter and will be happy to assist.

- **Do I have to frame my work?**

Most 2D wall mounted artwork will need to be framed. If your work cannot be framed for any reason please let us know in advance, so we can ensure we can still hang it. Please refer to the Terms and Conditions for more information [here](#)

- **A note on framing**

You do not need to get your artwork framed unless it is selected and you do not need to show a frame in your submission image. If your work is selected, it is really important that it is framed well and looks professional. It does not need to be expensive; in the past some artists have bought standard frames and painted them, or bought frames from charity shops, and others have gone to professional framers. The main thing is that your work looks professional and the frame compliments your work. If your work arrives and the framing detracts from the overall piece then sadly it may not be hung. It is not something that happens often, but please do keep this in mind when preparing your work.