



Annual Open 171 - FAQs

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What is the 171 Annual Open Exhibition?

The Royal West of England Academy holds an Annual Open Exhibition, now in its 171st 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 to emerging talent, from across the UK and beyond.

A selection panel assesses every entry and last year 665 works by 455 artists made it into the final exhibition. All work is for sale and the exhibition attracts art-lovers and art-buyers from far and wide.

A select number of prizes will be awarded, with full information available on the RWA website.

What dates are important to remember?

- **Submission open:** Friday 26 April 2024
- **Entry Deadline:** Sunday 7 July 2024, 23:59
- **Results Live:** Monday 22 July 2024, 1pm (artists need to log in to their OESS account to view their results)
- **Hand-In days:** Friday 23, 1 – 4pm, Saturday 24, Sunday 24 and Monday 26 August, 10am – 4pm
- **Varnishing Day event:** Friday 13 September 2024, afternoon, exact time to be confirmed.
- **Private View:** Friday 13 September 2024, exact time to be confirmed
- **Exhibition Open to Public:** Saturday 14 September 2024 – Sunday 5 January 2025
- **Collection of unsold work:** Saturday 11, Sunday 12 and Monday 13 January 2025, 10am – 4pm

How do I submit work?

- All applicants must apply using the Online Exhibition Submission System (OESS) - <http://royalwestofenglandacademy.oess1.uk> Please take note of your log in details as you will need to log in again to check your results.
- If you are having difficulties using OESS, please read the OESS user Guide [here](#), or view the instruction video [here](#)
- Please make sure that you have noted the hand-in, transport and collection dates in advance.

Submission Guidance

- Artists are encouraged to submit recent work (produced within the last 3 years)
- A maximum of 3 works may be submitted per applicant (4 for Academicians)
- Work cannot have been exhibited before at the RWA
- Work must be for sale

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

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

- £22 per item for General Public (£18.33+VAT)
- £16.50 per item for Students (£13.75+VAT)
- £16.50 per item for Friends of the RWA (£13.75+VAT)
- £11.00 per item for RWA Artist Network members (£9.17+VAT)

Do I have to submit images of my work online?

- You must include one image of your work when making your submission via OESS.
- This image may later be used for publicity purposes.

Make sure you've taken the best possible image of your work, photographed in good light, and with any distracting background cropped out. The selectors are 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.

What happens once I have submitted my work?

The closing date for online submission is Sunday 07 July 2024 at 23:59. After this point no changes can be made to your application. Therefore please ensure that you have submitted all the correct details and paid for your submission by this date.

Selection process and results

Once you have submitted your details via OESS, our selection panel will look at every work submitted online and create a shortlist. Works will then be looked at again by the panel, selecting the final artworks to be exhibited. Results of the online selection will go live on Monday 22 July at 1pm. Artists must log in to their account to view their results. Please note that results are not communicated by email.

How and when should I get my work to you?

If your work has been selected, you will need to arrange for delivery of your work on Friday 23, 12 – 4pm, Saturday 24, Sunday 25 and Monday 26 August 2024, 10am – 4pm.

Artists whose work has been selected will receive more detailed information after results are released.

How do I book RWA Transport?

- This must be booked and paid for via a form on the RWA website. Artists will be sent a link to this if they have one or more works selected.
- All transport must be booked and paid for by 5pm, Thursday 15 August 2024.
- Transport will be available from London, Exeter and Penzance as stated below.
- Transport is only available for work which is less than 1.75m² (6ft x 6ft). Sculpture must be under 25kg in weight.
- Booking transport for artworks incoming to the RWA will be available after results are live. Booking for the return journey will be available in December 2024.
- For full details on transport please see the T&Cs.

Dates, times and locations for Regional Transport are:

- **Penzance:** Wednesday 28 August 9.00 – 10.00am, hand-in work to ArtWorks, Penzance Harbour Car Park, Penzance
- **Exeter:** Wednesday 28 August 12.30 - 1.30pm, hand-in work to ArtWorks at Exeter Motorway Service area, (top of Car Park) Off Junction 30 of M5, Exeter
- **London:** Thursday 22 August, 12 noon - 4pm, hand-in works to Art Moves of Chelsea at Chelsea Self Storage, Blantyre Street, London, SW10 0EQ (delivery to RWA, 23 August)

Return transport:

- **Penzance:** Monday 13 January 2025, 4 – 5pm, hand-out of work by ArtWorks in Penzance Harbour Car Park, Penzance
- **Exeter:** Monday 13 January 2025, 12 noon – 1pm, hand-out of work by ArtWorks at Exeter Motorway Service area, (top of Car Park) Off Junction 30 of M5, Exeter
- **London:** Monday 22 January 2024, 12 noon - 4pm, hand-out works from Art Moves of Chelsea at Chelsea Self Storage, Blantyre Street, London, SW10 0EQ

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.

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 not hung, 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 the exhibition, including online or in the catalogue. You cannot send in an alternative piece because the selectors would specifically have wanted the selected artwork.

I forgot my password for the Online Exhibition Submission System

Please contact Lori on lori@oess.uk

I need help with the submission system

If you have difficulties with your entry then please get in touch by ringing the reception desk on 0117 973 5129 or emailing exhibition@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?

- We ask that all selected 2D wall mounted artwork gets framed. There are some exceptions, if your work cannot be framed for any reason please let us know in advance. Please refer to the Terms and Conditions for more information [here](#)
- 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, compliments the artwork and looks professional.
- If you are unsure, a simple neutral frame usually works well, and a cream or light colour mount-board will focus attention on the 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.