

RBSA Candidates Exhibition 2026

16 April – 2 May

Candidates for Associateship

About this exhibition

The RBSA Candidates Exhibition features the work of artists wishing to be elected to the Society, either as Associates or, for existing Associates, full Members. The current Membership is able to view the exhibition and vote for the artists they would like to see successfully elected. The exhibition is also open to the public which provides an exciting opportunity for visitors to see the high standard of work by prospective RBSA Members and Associates.

All candidates for Associateship are asked to submit six works as part of their application. Those existing Members and Associates who visit the exhibition are able to vote for their Associate choices in a secret ballot. To be successfully elected, each candidate must receive 50% +1 of the total votes cast in favour of their candidature.

A digital catalogue featuring all the artworks in the exhibition will accompany the show. This allows the Membership to view the submissions at their leisure prior to visiting the Gallery to vote. The digital catalogue is emailed to the Membership once the exhibition opens.

Artists wishing to be elected as Associate or Member have two application options: Self-nomination and Nomination. Self-nomination is for artists who have a strong record of participation in RBSA Open/Prize Exhibitions. Nomination is for artists who have an existing link with at least two RBSA Members, as well as a strong record of participation in RBSA Prize Exhibitions. **There are separate entry forms for each application option so candidates must ensure they complete the correct form.**

Self-nominated candidates must submit six artworks with their entry information by 6pm on Monday 2 February.

Nominated candidates must submit their entry information by 6pm on Monday 2 February. Following discussions with their proposer and seconder they must submit six artworks by 6pm on Monday 16 March. A reminder email will be sent with the link to the artwork submission form before this date.

A briefing for all artists interested in applying for Associateship will be held in early January. Artists are welcome to attend to learn more about the Society and what

becoming an Associate involves. We ask that you contact the Gallery to inform us that you will be attending.

Outlined in this exhibition pack:

- Key dates
- Entry requirements
- Artwork submissions
- Application fee
- Notification of application acceptance
- Delivery and installation of selected artwork
 - Labels and hanging
- Election results
- Sale of work
 - Commission and VAT calculation
- Collection of unsold artwork
- Images of work
- Insurance
- Data collection

Key Dates

- Applications open: **Tuesday 25 November**
- Briefing for all artists interested in applying for Associateship: **Sunday 11 January 2pm**
- Application deadline: **Monday 2 February 6pm**
- Application fee payment deadline: **Monday 9 February 4pm**
- Artists selected to exhibit announced: **End February**
- Image submission deadline (Nominated candidates only): **Monday 16 March 6pm**
- Delivery of work:
 - **Tuesday 7 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Wednesday 8 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Thursday 9 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Friday 10 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Saturday 11 April, 11am - 4pm**
- Exhibition on display: **Thursday 16 April – Saturday 2 May**
- Collection of work: **Sunday 3 May, 12pm – 2pm**

Entry Requirements

- All applicants must be over 18 years of age
- Applicants must submit six works. These should have been selected with the guidance of your mentor if self-nominating or proposer if being nominated

- The RBSA reserves the right to reject work, this will only be done following consultation with candidates and/or their proposer/mentor
- Applicants must submit a statement of no more than 250 words comprising a brief CV and artist's statement. All artists must observe the word limit and write the statement in the third person
- Work shown at the RBSA Gallery **in the last three years** can be entered if it is representative of your current practice
- Both 2D and 3D works are acceptable
- All media and techniques are accepted, included photography and digital works, where digital technology is used as an essential part of the artistic process
- Reproductions of original works, such as giclee prints, are not eligible
- All prints must be editioned, this includes digital prints, with the size of the edition clearly stated
- Prints of digital works must be produced to a high standard using archival quality inks and paper
- All equipment for video works must be provided by the artist and be fully PAT tested
- Sound cannot be played in the Gallery, headphones must be provided by the artist for any pieces with sound elements
- Images created using AI are not accepted
- All work must be original
- All work must be for sale for the full duration of the exhibition and available for visitors of the RBSA to purchase
- All work must have been made in the past three years
- Artwork should be representative of your current artistic practice
- Works that are over 1.5m in any dimension must be discussed with the Gallery following submission
- We ask that all artwork is framed, unless an unframed presentation is intrinsic to the nature of the piece/s. If your artwork is unframed, please send imagery and a description of the hanging methods to the Gallery so that it can be forwarded to the Honorary Curator following your submission
- Your image files must be JPG
- Your image/s need to be at least 2000 pixels across the smallest dimension and 300dpi in resolution
- You must title your image file 'Surname, First Name. Title of Work. Medium'
 - Please use the correct capitalisation for your submissions, for example 'Smith, John. The Tree of Life. Photograph'
- By entering this exhibition, you agree to adhere to all the key dates specified
- By completing the entry form you agree to the terms and conditions of this exhibition

Artwork Submissions

Artists must submit work through the online entry form only. You can access the entry form on the Call for Entries page on the RBSA website.

Application Fee

All applicants must pay a one-off application fee of £60.

Payments

- Payment can be made on the Call for Entries page on the RBSA website
- Card payments can be taken at the Gallery or over the phone
- All application fees must be paid by **Monday 9 February at 4pm otherwise work will not be considered for selection**
- Please note that **all application fees are non-refundable**

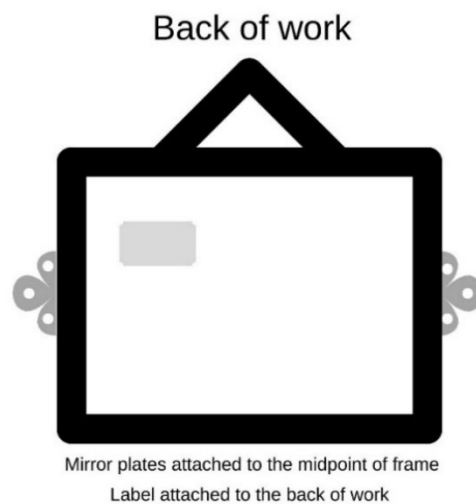
Notification of Selected Artwork

Applicants selected to exhibit in the Candidates Exhibition will be emailed by the Gallery to notify them by **the end of February**. Further details regarding the delivery and collection of work will be included in this email. Please check your junk mailbox to ensure you have not missed an email from us.

Delivery and Installation of Selected Artwork

Deliver your original work(s) labelled and unwrapped to the Gallery on any of the following days

- **Tuesday 7 April, 11am - 4pm**
- **Wednesday 8 April, 11am - 4pm**
- **Thursday 9 April, 11am - 4pm**
- **Friday 10 April, 11am - 4pm**
- **Saturday 11 April, 11am - 4pm**
- **Work must be delivered by 4pm on Saturday 11 April. Failure to deliver the complete body of six pieces of artwork will result in the applicant being excluded from the exhibition**
- The exhibition will be installed on Tuesday 14 April from 10am. As a Candidate, you may wish to be involved in the hanging of your artwork. Please indicate on your application form if you be interested in doing so
- Two labels must be attached to each work (download labels on Call for Entries page of the RBSA website)
- Frames must be suitable for display using a mirror plate system. Artists should affix the mirror plates at the mid-point on the frame of each work:



- All mirror plates must be **painted white** and attached to the work prior to delivery
- Your mirror plates will be **removed** when the work is de-installed as storing the work with the mirror plates on can damage other artworks
- Mirror plates are available for artists when they collect their work at the end of the exhibition, please ask
- Delivery is only allowed outside the dates and times listed in exceptional circumstances and by prior arrangement
- If you wish to enter a work that is unsuitable for mirror plating, please inform the Gallery once you have submitted your work and include detailed hanging instructions upon delivery
- A third party or courier can deliver on your behalf
- Please clearly highlight the 'top' of abstract works
- Work in clip frames cannot be entered
- Frames must have no projections at the back (such as rings)

Election Results

Election results are formally ratified at the AGM each year and will be posted on the RBSA Gallery website shortly thereafter. The Honorary Secretary will email all candidates with the result before the end of the exhibition and will also send a confirmation letter.

Sale of work

- **All work entered must be for sale** for the full duration of the exhibition. It is not permitted for artists to make private sales of their submitted artwork during the exhibition dates. All artwork sold during this period must be processed through the RBSA Gallery
- Artists will be paid within 45 days of the last day of the exhibition or receipt of payment from the customer, provided payment from the purchaser has been received in full
- The price stated on the entry form must be the retail price and include the frame
- The commission is **45% + VAT for all artists**. Charges incurred for international payments will be deducted from the artist's commission

- Any commissions taken as a result of participating in the exhibition at the RBSA Gallery will be subject to the same sales commission
- Unframed prints or cast sculptures may be sold if details are completed on the entry form. Artists will be informed of any order placed and will be responsible for delivering these to the Gallery. The purchaser will pay the cost of postage. Orders must be fulfilled within 30 days of notification. These prints will also be subject to the 45% commission + VAT
- Sold items will remain on display until the end of the exhibition
- Diptych and triptych works must be fixed or framed together to be sold as one
- Sold work that has a damaged frame must be reframed promptly by the artist. The RBSA reserves the right to deduct reframing costs from an artist's commission if required

Commission and VAT calculation

Artists Price* x 100 / 48 = retail price

*This is the total amount the artist will be paid

The exhibition closes to the public on Saturday 2 May at 5pm.

Collection of Unsold Artwork

Sunday 3 May, 12 - 2pm

If this date is not suitable, please contact the Gallery to arrange another collection date during our opening hours. A third party or courier can collect on your behalf with prior arrangement. Please allow two weeks following the close of the exhibition to arrange a courier, once you have been contacted to say that your work is ready.

Any work that is not collected one month after the close of the exhibition will be considered abandoned and may be sold, with all proceeds donated to the RBSA charity. Please note, you must contact the Gallery if you are unable to collect your artwork within a month of the exhibition close to arrange a later collection date.

Images of work

Visitors are permitted to take photographs in the Gallery without restriction.

Copyright remains with the artist. However, by entering this exhibition you agree that photos of your work can be used for the promotion of the RBSA Gallery and its exhibitions in perpetuity.

Insurance

Reasonable care will be taken of all work, but it is submitted at your own risk. We strongly advise all artists to insure their work against damage and theft. The RBSA cannot insure work on the premises or in transit and will not be responsible for any loss or damage.

Data Collection

We do collect a small amount of personal data when you enter the exhibition. This is purely for our own audience development.

The RBSA is committed to providing an inclusive and inspiring space that can be enjoyed by all equally. Your answers will help us to tailor what we offer so that we can reach as many communities as possible while maintaining our status as Birmingham's best contemporary art gallery.

All data collected is strictly confidential and will not be shared with any third parties.