

RBSA Portrait Prize Exhibition 2026

5 May – 13 June

About this exhibition

The RBSA Portrait Prize provides an opportunity for portrait artists to exhibit their work in the RBSA's renowned Gallery and be rewarded for their talents through a range of prizes.

All styles, media, and genres of portraiture are eligible for this exhibition, including photography and digital work.

We welcome entries from professional and emerging artists based locally, nationally, and internationally.

Selecting the exhibition will be:

- **Brian Bishop** – Senior Lecturer in Fine Art and Course Director for BA (Hons) in Fine Art, Birmingham School of Art
- **Anthony Connolly President RP** – President, Royal Society of Portrait Painters
- **Dr Hannah Higham** – Head of Collections, Royal Academy of Arts

The following prizes will be awarded:

- **First Prize £1000**
- **Second Prize £500**
- **Third Prize £250**
- Up to six highly commended certificates will also be awarded

Selection for the Portrait Prize is by digital image of the original artwork only. All works entered go through the same anonymous selection process. The selection is based on the assessment of the quality and interest of each work.

A catalogue featuring all works will be published alongside the exhibition.

The selection panel is TBC.

Outlined in this exhibition pack:

- Key dates
- Prizes
- Entry requirements
- Artwork submissions
- Entry fees

- Notification of selected artwork
- Delivery of selected artwork
 - Labels and hanging
- Sale of work
 - Commission and VAT calculation
- Collection of unsold artwork
- Images of work
- Insurance
- Data collection

Key Dates

- Applications open: **Thursday 22 January**
- Entry deadline: **Tuesday 24 March 12pm**
- Entry fee payment deadline: **Tuesday 24 March 4pm**
- Selected artists announced: **by Friday 10 April 5pm**
- Delivery of work:
 - **Tuesday 28 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Wednesday 29 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Thursday 30 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Friday 1 May, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Saturday 2 May, 11am - 4pm**
- Exhibition on display: **Tuesday 5 May – Saturday 13 June**
- Preview Evening: **Tuesday 5 May 6 - 8pm**
- Collection of work: **Sunday 14 June 12 - 2pm**

Prizes

First Prize: £1,000

Second Prize: £500

Third Prize: £250

Up to six *Highly Commended* certificates will also be awarded

Entry Requirements

- All entrants must be over 18 years of age
- Work previously shown at the RBSA Gallery **cannot be entered**
- Both 2D and 3D works are acceptable
- The primary subject of the artwork must be portraiture
- All media are accepted, included photography and digital works (this does not include digital copies of handmade work), where digital technology is used as an essential part of the artistic process
- Reproductions of original works (such as giclee prints) are not accepted

- Prints of digital works must be produced to a high standard using archival quality inks and papers
- All prints must be editioned, this includes digital prints, with the size of the edition clearly stated
- All equipment for video works must be provided by the artist and be PAT tested
- Sounds cannot be played in the Gallery. Headphones must be provided by the artist for 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. The selection aims to be as wide as possible and is based on the panel's assessment of the quality and interest of the work.

Entry Fees

Artists may enter **up to four pieces** of work in total.

- Free for RBSA Graduate Artists
- 50% discount for artists under 35 (please provide proof on delivery of artwork)

1 entry: £20

- 2 entries: £32**
- 3 entries: £40**
- 4 entries: £48**

Payments

- Payment can be made on the Call For Entries page of the RBSA website
- Card payments can be taken at the Gallery or over the phone
- Please phone the Gallery to pay over the phone if you are under 35 or are eligible for 50% discount
- All entry fees must be paid by **Tuesday 24 March at 4pm otherwise work will not be considered for selection**
- Please note that **all entry fees are non-refundable**

Notification of Selected Artwork

Selected artists will be emailed by the Gallery to notify them of which works have been selected by **Friday 10 April, 5pm**. 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.

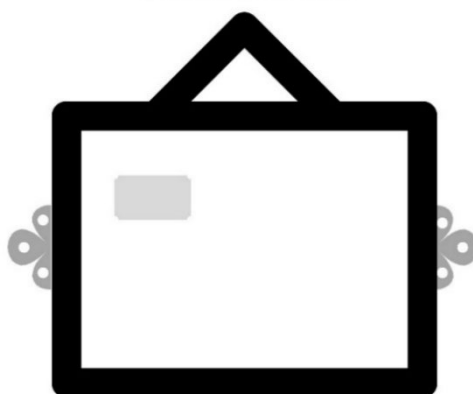
Please note that the entry selection process is completely anonymous, so no personal information provided will be shared with the exhibition selection panel.

Delivery of Selected Artwork

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

- **Tuesday 28 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Wednesday 29 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Thursday 30 April, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Friday 1 May, 11am - 4pm**
 - **Saturday 2 May, 11am - 4pm**
- 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:

Back of work



Mirror plates attached to the midpoint of frame

Label attached to the back of 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)

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 35% + 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 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 35% commission + VAT
- Sold items will remain on display until the end of the exhibition. At the Gallery's discretion, sold items may occasionally be removed on the day of

purchase, if the purchaser is unable to receive the artwork at the exhibition close

- 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 / 58 = retail price

*This is the total amount the artist will be paid

The exhibition closes on Saturday 13 June at 5pm.

Collection of Unsold Artwork

Sunday 14 June, 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 three weeks following the close of the exhibition to arrange a courier, once you have been contacted to say that your work is ready.

Storage at the Gallery is very limited and we are unable to store work long term. Therefore, any work that isn't 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 ensure that you contact the Gallery if you are unable to collect your artwork within ONE month of the exhibition closing to arrange a later collection date – this is only permitted in extenuating circumstances.**

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.