

Next Generation RBSA 2026

A programme for emerging artists

1 – 12 September 2006

About this exhibition

The Next Generation RBSA programme is triennial opportunity open to early-career visual artists based in the West Midlands. Through the programme, the Society is offering a small number of artists the opportunity to enjoy the benefits a three-year free membership of the Society.

In order to be eligible to apply for the programme, artists must fit the following criteria:

- You may have graduated from an arts-related course within the past few years, or you could be a self-taught artist who has chosen to take another route to start your artistic journey
- You have a growing body of work that has been shown in exhibitions, but you feel that you would benefit from access to more opportunities
- You live within easy reach of the gallery
- You have an ongoing and demonstrable commitment to making art
- You are prepared to involve yourself in Society activities, such as installing or taking down exhibitions, as a volunteer, and work alongside the existing membership
- You are keen to learn and forge relationships with others in the Society

The Process

Artists wishing to take part in the exhibition will be selected by the RBSA Director and RBSA Members through a two-stage application process:

- Applications to become a *Next Generation RBSA* artists should be made via the RBSA website by completing the online entry form. Artists will be required to submit between six and 10 images that demonstrate their current practice. A statement will also be required that tells us about their artistic journey, style, and techniques.
- Shortlisted artists will then be invited to attend an interview at the RBSA Gallery during the specified dates. This will enable the selection panel to discuss the artist's artworks in person and gain a deeper understanding of their body of work and artistic practice. Artists may also receive advice and

guidance on which artworks should be included in the exhibition if they are successful in your application.

Selection

Selected artists will be invited to show their work as part of the exhibition, which is free to enter, and will receive guidance on the development of their creative practice, which artworks to show in the exhibition, and the practicalities of exhibition design and installation.

Next Generation RBSA – The Benefits

Several exhibiting artists will be offered the position of Next Generation RBSA artist (NGRBSA) at the end of the show. Next Generation RBSA artists, will receive three-years free membership of the Society, enabling them to exhibit in all RBSA Membership exhibitions without paying subscription, entry, or display fees.

NGRBSAs would benefit from being part of an arts society of fellow artists who could provide support and advice on how to develop their career.

Benefits will include:

- Automatic acceptance into two exhibitions at the RBSA Gallery each year during your period as an NGRBSA
- An opportunity to have a solo exhibition in one the three ground floor Membership spaces
- Guidance on technique, style and presentation
- Networking
- Marketing training
- Commercial gallery insights
- Learning the art of hanging exhibitions
- Information regarding financial sustainability as an artist
- Guidance in applying for grants and funding
- Balancing teaching/paid work with art practice to allow the development of new work

Key Dates

- Applications open: **May 2026**
- Application deadline: **Tuesday 7 July 4.00pm**
- Notification of shortlisting for interview: **by Friday 24 July 5.00pm**
- Interviews to be held: **Tuesday 4 –Thursday 13 August**
- Exhibition selection notification: **by Friday 14 August 5.00pm**
- Delivery of work: **Tuesday 25 - Saturday 29 August 11.00am - 4.00pm**
- Installation of work: **Sunday 30 August and Monday 31 August**
- Exhibition on display: **Tuesday 1 September – Saturday 12 September**

- Opening reception: **Tuesday 1 September 6.00pm – 8.00pm**
- Collection of work: **Sunday 13 September 12.00pm – 2.00pm**
- Notification of success: **by Friday 18 September 5.00pm**

Entry Requirements

- All entrants must be over 18 years of age
- Entrants must be available to attend an in-person interview at the RBSA Gallery in Birmingham during the specified period
- Artwork must be representative of your current artistic practice
- Both 2D and 3D works are acceptable
- 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
- Artists must submit a minimum of six and a maximum of 10 artworks illustrating their practice via the online entry form
- Artists must submit an artist's statement of between 350 and 500 words via the online entry form, this statement should explain the body of work and give selectors an overview of their artistic practice
- Proposals for site-specific installations and new artworks are welcome. Where this is the case, examples of work (and works in progress) can be sent
- 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
- Images created using AI are not accepted
- All work must be original
- 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 and agree to the terms and conditions of this exhibition

Applications

Artists must submit work through the online entry form only which can be accessed on the Call for Entries page on the RBSA website. **The deadline is Tuesday 7 July 4.00pm.**

Notification of Shortlisting

All artists will go through a selection process as outlined in this pack. Artists will be notified of the result of shortlisting by **Friday 24 July at 5.00pm**.

Notification of Interview

Shortlisted artists will be invited to attend an interview at the Gallery between **Tuesday 4 – Thursday 13 August** to discuss their work.

Notification of Selection

Artists will be emailed by the Gallery to notify them of successful selection for the exhibition by **Friday 14 August 5.00pm**.

Delivery and Installation of Selected Artwork

Deliver or artwork(s) will be required on any of the days between **Tuesday 25 – Saturday 29 August**.

Artists may be invited to assist in the installation of their work on **Sunday 30 August or Monday 31 August**. Further discussions will take place during interviews.

Notification of Success

Artists will be informed if they have been successful in their application to become a *Next Generation RBSA Artist* no later than **Friday 18 September 5.00pm**.

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 ensure 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.