

ROYAL WATERCOLOUR SOCIETY

OPEN

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission deadline: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 11.59pm GMT

This pack contains all the information that you need to know regarding the submission, exhibition and sale of your work in the **Royal Watercolour Society Open 2024**. Please read through it carefully before submitting your work.

Lead Sponsor

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# RWS Open 2024

The Royal Watercolour Society's annual competition is open to all artists except elected RWS Members. Entries must be submitted digitally via the RWS website.

Work made in any water-based media on a paper support is eligible: this includes gouache, acrylic, ink, pigment, watercolour or a mixed media piece containing any of this list. A maximum of 6 paintings may be submitted for a fee of £15 per work with reductions on multiple submissions. Students in higher education (who can produce a valid student card or proof of student status) can enter up to 6 works for £5 per work.

To enter, artists must complete the online entry form and upload images of up to 6 recent paintings to the Royal Watercolour Society's website. These digital submissions are selected by a panel of judges whose decision is final.

## Eligibility

- Any painting in watercolour, acrylic, gouache, ink, any other water-based media or a combination is eligible
- No prints, copies, reproductions or photographs are eligible
- All work should be on a paper support i.e. paper, cardboard, etc (not canvas, wood, plastic or any other surface)
- There are no limitations on style or subject matter
- Framed works must not exceed 200 x 200cm
- The painting must have been completed in the last 4 years from the deadline date (8th January 2024)
- The work must have been made by the applicant
- All work must be for sale
- Applicants must be living and aged 18 or over on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2023

## Selectors

**Humphrey Ocean RA** | Artist and Royal Academician

**Charles Williams PRWS** | Artist and President of the Royal Watercolour Society

**Suzy Fasht RWS** | Artist

**Barbara Nicholls RWS** | Artist

## Royal Watercolour Society Prizes

**David Gluck Memorial Award** | £1000 Cash Prize

**RWS Award** | £250 Cash Prize

**RWS New Graduate Award\*** | £250 Cash Prize

**RWS Young Artist Award\*\*** | Guest Membership to the RWS for 2 years to an artist under the age of 35, allowing the winner(s) to exhibit in all Society exhibitions at Bankside Gallery for this period

**RWS Publicity Prize** | Your selected work on exhibition publicity material

\*To qualify for the RWS New Graduate Award you must be a current student on an arts-related course in higher education, or a recent graduate of the same. If you are a graduate, your graduation date must be no earlier than 1st January 2019.

\*\*To qualify for the RWS Young Artist Award you must be 35 or under on 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.

## Sponsored Prizes

The Royal Watercolour Society is delighted to have the support of industry specialists who are offering a range of prizes including art materials, studio time, publishing, exhibiting and cash prizes.

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*the* **artist**

DRY RED PRESS

HEATHERLEY'S



**DALER**   
**ROWNEY**



**seawhite**  
OF BRIGHTON  
The Artist's benchmark for quality



ST CUTHBERTS MILL



**The Cass Art Solo Show Award** | The opportunity for a solo exhibition of your work in one of the Art Spaces at Cass Art

**The Artist Prize** | Feature article in The Artist & Leisure Painter Magazine

**Cotswold Mounts Prize** | £125 cash

**Daler Rowney Prize** | Art materials to the value of £650

**Dry Red Press Prize** | The opportunity to have your artwork published on a greetings card

**The Heatherley's Open Studio Prize** | Five days' worth of studio time at The Heatherley School of Fine Art

**Schmincke Prize** | Set of 40 Schmincke Horadam Supergranulating watercolours

**Seawhite Art Materials Prize** | Seawhite art materials

**The Shoosmith Gallery Prize** | £1000 cash

**St Cuthbert's Mill Paper Prize** | £150 worth of paper

**Winsor & Newton Prize** | Art materials

## How to Enter

Entry deadline: Monday 8th January 2024, 11.59pm GMT

Artists may submit up to 6 paintings for a non-refundable fee:

1 work £15

2 works £30

3 works £38 (£7 discount)

4 works £47 (£13 discount)

5 works £56 (£19 discount)

6 works £65 (£25 discount)

### Discounts

- Students in full time higher education can submit up to 6 works for £5 per entry (please email a scan/photo of your student ID to [info@royalwatercoloursociety.com](mailto:info@royalwatercoloursociety.com). We will respond with a unique entry code) No further offers apply.
- Watercolour Artist Friends can submit for free. If you are already a Watercolour Artist Friend please request your free entry code by emailing a photo of your Friends Membership card including expiry date, or your name and postcode for us to verify your membership to [info@royalwatercoloursociety.com](mailto:info@royalwatercoloursociety.com) To join the Watercolour Artist Friends Scheme please contact [info@banksidegallery.com](mailto:info@banksidegallery.com) The cost of an annual subscription is £45.
- Cass Art customers can submit up to 6 entries with a 10% discount on submission fees (please email proof of being a Cass Art customer to [info@royalwatercoloursociety.com](mailto:info@royalwatercoloursociety.com) This could be a photo of your receipt, plastic bag, tote bag, Cass Art products, selfie of you in the shop, etc. We will respond with a unique entry code. No further offers apply.)

**\*Discounts cannot be applied in retrospect after payment has been made. Please make sure you enter your discount code on the submission form before completing payment.**

### Step 1

Take a good quality digital photograph or scan of each painting. Paintings should be photographed unframed and evenly lit, and cropped to the edge of the work.

### Step 2

View the photograph on a computer to make sure you are happy with the picture quality and that it is the right way up – the judges will make their decision based on this photograph. Check the image file does not exceed 5MB (minimum of 1MB) before saving it as a jpeg.

### Step 3

Go to [royalwatercoloursociety.co.uk/competition](http://royalwatercoloursociety.co.uk/competition) to access the online entry form. Complete the online form. You must supply an email address to proceed, as this is how we will contact you if your work is selected (so please make sure this is spelled correctly). If you do not have an email address you may use that of a friend or relative, with their permission. We cannot accept entries without an email address.

### Step 4

Upload a photograph of each painting to the website and fill in the title, dimensions, medium and price of each painting. You are able to re-access your entry until the closing date but you will not be able to make any changes after that point. You should consider framing, transport costs and the Gallery's commission of 40% + VAT when pricing your work.

### Step 5

Pay the non-refundable entry fee using the secure online payment service. We are unable to accept payment by any other means. Acknowledgement of your entry and payment will be emailed to you. Please check your junk/spam folder if you do not receive this email.

### Step 6

Successful entrants will be contacted by the email address provided on or before Wednesday 31st January 2024. We do also try to contact unsuccessful applicants but this isn't always possible. If you haven't heard from us by the end of the day on Wednesday 31st January 2024 please assume your application has been unsuccessful this time.

## Preparing Your Paintings for Exhibition

An exhibition of selected paintings will be held at Bankside Gallery from **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

- Poorly presented paintings or works that differ significantly from the photograph that was entered will not be accepted.
- Framed paintings must not exceed 200cm x 200cm.
- For your work to be insured against theft under Bankside Gallery insurance, your paintings must be framed, glazed and fitted with mirror plates. Other display options are welcomed but these are displayed at your own risk.
- If you choose alternative display options you must also ensure that your works can be safely stored and you must provide a safe and secure way in which they can be wrapped and protected if sold. You must also provide clear instructions on the hanging of your work in advance of delivering the work.
- Framed paintings must be supplied with mirror-plates screwed to each side of the frame with a pair of screws. Bubble wrap or card wrapped around the mirror-plates should prevent damage during transit.
- You will receive labels via email for your works. Please fill out the information with the details of your work and fix one to the front and one to the back of your work with magic tape. Please make sure the label on the front can be easily removed without leaving residue on the glass.
- The paintings remain at all times the liability of the artist. While every care will be taken when handling paintings, neither the Gallery nor the RWS can accept liability for any damage. You may wish to insure your work against loss or damage while it is in transit or at the Gallery.

## Delivering Your Paintings

Delivery of framed paintings is to Bankside Gallery on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 11am-5pm**. Paintings may not be delivered on any other date. On arrival at the Gallery you will be asked to un-wrap your paintings and to take any packing material away with you.

You may arrange for a representative or professional art courier to deliver your paintings on the above hand-in days. They must un-wrap your paintings, take away all packaging and sign a delivery sheet.

Only professional Art Couriers should be used. We recommend:

**Picture Post** (info@picturepostcompany.co.uk / 07833 450 788)

**Art Moves of Chelsea** (artmoveschelsea@aol.com / 020 7352 7492)

Work will not be accepted if delivered by Royal Mail, FedEx, DHL etc, or by taxi. If you live outside of the UK and would like to submit work to the competition, please contact one of the above couriers directly beforehand so they can advise you on timings.

Please note that the art couriers listed above are all third parties and do not have any link with Bankside Gallery or the RWS. Any delivery arrangements should be made directly with the courier.

## Sale of Paintings

All paintings entered in the competition must be available for sale. The Gallery levies a commission of 40% + VAT on picture sales. You will be notified of sales by email shortly after they occur and will receive the balance due within six weeks of the end of the exhibition.

Copyright: The copyright of all works remains vested in the artist, but the right is reserved for Bankside Gallery and/or the sponsors of the exhibition to reproduce any of the paintings in connection with the exhibition, and its publicity, free of charge.

## Collecting Unsold Paintings

Collection of unsold paintings is from Bankside Gallery on **Monday 25th March 2024, 11am – 5pm** unless you have been notified of a sale during the exhibition you must collect your unsold work from Bankside Gallery on the above date. If you are unable to come to the Gallery yourself you may send a representative or engage a professional art courier (see list above). If someone will be collecting on your behalf, please contact us via [info@royalwatercoloursociety.com](mailto:info@royalwatercoloursociety.com) beforehand. All paintings will be available to collect unwrapped, so you or your representative are advised to bring any packing material required.

## Uncollected Paintings

Paintings left at the Gallery after 5pm on Monday 25th March 2024 will be removed by an art storage service and fees will apply, increasing weekly. Please contact [info@royalwatercoloursociety.com](mailto:info@royalwatercoloursociety.com) for further information.

## Covid-19

In the event of a UK lockdown or other covid-related restrictions being put in place, we reserve the right to deliver the RWS Open exhibition as an online only event. This is unlikely to affect the awarding of prizes however there may be some delay.

## Key Dates

**Monday 8th January** | Deadline for submissions (11.59pm)

**Wednesday 31st January** | Results announced via email

**Monday 4th March** | Delivery of selected work to Bankside Gallery (11am - 5pm)

**Thursday 7th March** | Exhibition Private View (tbc) and awarding of prizes, by invitation only

**Friday 8th - Sunday 24th March** | Exhibition of successful entries at Bankside Gallery

**Monday 25th March** | Collection of unsold works from Bankside Gallery (11am - 5pm)

