



Submission Guidelines 2023

Three Counties Open Art

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An open-call visual arts exhibition for artists connected to Staffordshire, Cheshire or Shropshire. Held at Burslem School of Art throughout August. Free entry.



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Ready to Submit?



Welcome.

Photo: Jenny Harper

Welcome! Thank you for taking the time to submit your work for Three Counties Open Art 2023, we look forward to seeing your entries.

We are pleased to share once again the show will be held in-person in the beautiful Burslem School of Art building in Stoke-on-Trent, and we will be continuing with an online digital-gallery too.

Entry to the exhibition will continue to be free. We want to remove barriers for artists, and ensure that our exhibition works towards fostering an inclusive art world of people from all backgrounds, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic background. **If you've never applied or been successful in entering to Three Counties before, please let us know! We'd love to support new entrants to the show.**

We will be accepting only **1** entry per person, with the exception of a diptych or triptych.

The exhibition is 'open', which means that there is no set theme; you can submit the work you hope to be seen, experienced and enjoyed by visitors to the exhibition.

We are only accepting digital submissions (photograph of the work) this time, with physical works being delivered if selected for the show. If you need an alternative submission process - in person, over the phone or another way, please just let us know and we can accommodate. This will not impact on how your work is judged.

Good luck with your submissions. Three Counties Open is proudly in partnership with ArtsKeele, Burslem School of Art Trust, Barewall Gallery, City Learning Trust Ltd, Appetite and ACAVA Spode Works.

Please find these guidelines audio described here:
<https://on.soundcloud.com/2y2PZzEWrjDdDeUU7>

Please let us know if you have any access needs in submitting your work, need an alternative process or anything else we can do to make the process easier.

If you require further support with the digital submission, please email arts@keele.ac.uk or call +44 1782 731368 on Mondays from 9th May - 3rd June, between 11am-1pm and we will be happy to support you in alternative ways of submitting.

Accessibility.



Photo: Jenny Harper

You must be aged 16 and over to enter.

You must either live in one of the three counties (Staffordshire, Cheshire or Shropshire), or if you no longer live in one of the counties, we ask that you detail your connection to the area. We will accept entries from people who have moved away from the area but were born and/or subsequently lived, studied, trained or have another connection to one of the three counties as detailed above.

We will accept applications from collectives, and will count this as **1** application, therefore the collective must choose one artwork that the collective most want to show.

Your work must be your own, original art work. We will accept printed editions, you must state if your work is an edition in the submission form.

Please only submit work created within the last 2 years.

Please do not submit work previously shown at the Three Counties Open Art show.

We want to celebrate art in all its forms, and at all levels. You do not need a qualification, formal training or to have graduated recently from a course. All we ask for is passion and dedication to art. From amateur artist to career artists, we want to see it all.

Submission opens on 17th April and closes midnight on 12th June 2023.

Work must have been created in the last two years and original.

Number of entries

We are limiting entries to **ONE** artwork per person or collective, with the exception of a diptych or triptych. If submitting a diptych/triptych, please photograph the work together, as it would be displayed and take the measurement of the whole piece, not individual panel.

If you are applying as a Collective, in the submission form please write the name of the collective in the *First Name* box, and write *Collective* in the surname box.

Categories

- Digital Art
- Drawing
- Painting
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture/3D
- Textiles.

Please select the category that most resonates with your work.

Scale of work

As we have limited space to show the work, we request that 2D work is no bigger than approx. 200cm x 200cm and that 3D work (sculpture) is no bigger than 150 x 100cm and weighs no more than 30kg.

Photography of work

A digital camera or smart-phone will take sufficient photos of your artwork. Please note, you will not be judged on quality of the photograph. A clear, light, uncluttered image will help us in the judging process. More info on page 9. You must include the frame that your work will be displayed in, if your piece is framed.

Sending your digital submission

You will enter your artwork by completing a two-part process:

1. Completing the digital entry form [LINK]
2. Sending an image of your submission to: arts@keele.ac.uk

Image files must be clearly labelled with the artist name and title of entry in the following format:

Firstname-Surname_title-of-artwork

All image files must a maximum of 5MB.

Physical Work

If your work is selected for the Three Counties Open, it must be delivered ready to be exhibited. We may not be able to display the work if it is delivered in poor condition (scratches around the frame/glass, marked corners etc).

If your work is selected for the Three Counties Open, it must be delivered ready to be exhibited. If it is framed/canvas work we require you to add mirror plates. If your work is unframed please let us know how it should be fixed in the space. We can not mount your work for you or provide frames however our friends at the Art Studio (who offer one of our prizes) are offering a 10% discount on framing.

Judging

This year, our selection panel is made up of city-wide partners, and others TBC.

- ArtsKeele
- Appetite
- ArtUK
- Barewall Gallery
- 2 independent judges

Submission Guidelines.

Online Submission Open/Close_____21st April - 12th June 2023

Notification of Decision_____3 - 6th July 2023

Delivery of Artwork to BSOA_____22nd July 2023

Public Preview Evening_____27th July TBC

Exhibition Opens_____29th July 2023

Workshops_____Dates TBC during August

Exhibition Closes_____26th August 2023

Artwork Collection_____30th August 2023

Key Dates.

ACAVA Studios Artist**Development Prize**

Open Studio residencies at ACAVA Spode Works, plus a public engagement outcome for one week at the end of the residency. More details announced soon. Judged by: Dan Southward (ACAVA)

Appetite's People's Prize

(£250) Judged by: Appetite's Supper Club and by public vote.

Shortlist and winners will also have the chance to exhibit in Appetite's Featured 2023, taking place from September-October, as well as a paid residency opportunity. More details announced soon.

Appetite is part of the Creative People and Places programme, initiated and funded by Arts Council England.

Arthur Berry Prize

(£500) Judged by: Ray Johnson MBE With thanks to the New Vic Theatre Archive Fund Committee.

The Art Studio Prize

(£75 voucher) Judged by: Three Counties Open Art Judges (collectively selected). The Art Studio is a family-run picture framers, Art Gallery and suppliers of art and craft materials.

Barewall Gallery Best Newcomer prize

(£100) Judged by: Barewall Gallery Barewall Gallery is an art gallery and shop based in Burslem, Stoke on Trent.

The Burslem School of Art prize

(£100) Judged by: Burslem School of Art Trust - a self-financing, not-for-profit arts and community development organization.

City Learning Trust Young Artist's prize

For young people ages 16-21 (£50) Judged by: Three Counties Open Art Judges (collectively selected).

The Lunar prize

New for 2023, The Lunar prize offers the opportunity to exhibit your work at the Lunar Restaurant at Wedgwood, selected by Double Michelin starred chef, Niall Keating.

The Sustainability prize

(£50) from North Staffs Friends of the Earth. Judged by: Three Counties Open Art Judges (collectively selected).

Three Counties Open Art Prize

(£400) Judged by: Three Counties Open Art Judges (collectively selected).



Photo: Jenny Harper

If you would like to be considered for the ACAVA Artist Development, Lunar Prize or Sustainability prize, please let us know in your submission form. There is a question specifically for this prize. You will not be automatically put forward for this prize otherwise.

A selection of the prizes are held for newcomers to the Three Counties Open, so please make sure to let us know if it's your first time applying to Three Counties! In the submission form, there is a specific question asking this.

Prize winners will be announced at the Public Preview evening in July.

Although Three Counties will be returning to Burslem School of Art in-person this July, we will be continuing with an online gallery. If your work is selected, we will use the photograph you submit to us here as part of the Digital Gallery.

This guide has been developed to support you to take a photograph of your piece of art ready for submission. The information below also supports us as we try to create the best possible platform for the art on display in the online gallery. For online exhibition, a suitable photograph can be taken using a standard digital camera/mobile phone.

All images must be saved as a JPEG or PNG file no larger than 5mb. Do not resize files after cropping them, just save them as JPEG at quality level 10 (recommended)

Post processing images - Image files should be cropped tightly so that they do not include any peripheral material at all. No walls, props etc. Just an image of your work, as it would be displayed in the physical show (including frame, if framed at point of entry).

Save with a file name. This should include your name and the title of

your work in the following format:

Firstname-Surname title of artwork

Please use this same format for the subject of your email too. This will help us connect the image you share with your online entry form. NOTE: if you are unable to save the file with a filename due to no computer access and you are sending it directly from your mobile phone please make sure to include the filename as the subject in the email.

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS

We have gathered a few helpful links about taking good quality photographs of art. These are shared below. We hope you find them useful.

1. This information was provided by ArtUK. If you are unable to control your camera settings then achieving good light and a good, straight-on angle should enable you to take a decent photo of your work.

When photographing artworks in house, consider the following:

LIGHT - The light source - If possible, a flat, even, consistent source of natural light is preferable. Try to avoid shadows being cast by frames - Be aware of

glare - if the work is behind glass, for example.

BASIC CAMERA SETTINGS - If you can control ISO on your camera, a setting below 200 is ideal - If you can control the aperture on your camera, f5.6-f11 is ideal - Ensure the shutter speed remains faster than 1/125th to avoid camera shake. These settings are a guide only and will depend on the light available. - If possible, use a tripod to give more control and consistency - Ensure the focus is set accurately.

ANGLE - 2D works should be photographed flat on in order to produce an accurate reproduction - If the work is on a wall, photograph from directly in front of the piece, without pointing the camera up or down
If the work is on a table, ensure you can look directly down on to it, using a step if necessary, or if not, consider placing the work on a surface on the floor. Be aware of any obstructions.

2. A really clear guide on how to take a photo of your artwork using a mobile phone but most of the principles here also apply if you are using a camera:

<https://willkempartschool.com/how-to-photograph-your-paintings-with-your-iphone/>

3. Here is a short video on YouTube from Saatchi Online. Gives a good, quick overview:
<https://youtu.be/Vpj28da03JQ>

Photographing Work.

How many entries can I submit?

One entry per person or per collective. A diptych/triptych counts as one work. You can only submit once. Duplicate or multiple submission will not be accepted.

Why are you no longer accepting physical submissions?

After successful submissions of digital entries of the past 3 years, we found this to be a more efficient way of sorting entries.

If you're unable to enter digitally or would like extra support, we'd be more than happy to help you.

Please call: +44 1782 731368

on Mondays between 15 April - 3 June, 11am-1pm only

or send us a email at:

arts@keele.ac.uk

What if my work doesn't fit into a category?

We have selected these categories so that we are able to cover a wide range of art forms, if you're unsure, select the one that most resonates with your work. We are not currently accepting Moving Image/ Film.

What if I miss the entry deadline?

No late entries will be accepted. Please prepare your work in enough time. Submissions close on midnight on the 12th June.

What happens if my work is selected?

We will be in contact with you to let you know the next steps and delivery/ collection dates for the exhibition.

Can I change my entry once I've submitted?

No - we will not accept changes to an entry after submission, so please think carefully about what you're submitting.

Who is on your judging panel?

Our judging panel is made up of our partners and independent judges. This year our judges will be: Airspace Gallery; Appetite Supper Club; ArtsKeele; ArtUK; Barewall Gallery; and two independent judges.

Why wasn't my work selected?

We receive a high number of entries and have a limited space to display the work, and so are not able to show the work of everyone who enters.



Photo: Jenny Harper

We are not able to give individual feedback due to the number of entries we receive.

Please read this guide carefully. If we haven't answered your question here or in the guide, please contact us at arts@keele.ac.uk, but please note we will take 5-7 working days to respond to any queries.



Photo: Jenny Harper

The Three Counties Open is open to all artists from or has a connection to Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire.

There is no fee to pay for 2023. Each entrant may submit one piece of artwork by midnight on Monday 12 June 2023. A diptych/triptych count as 1 artwork, please submit an image of them together, as they would be displayed.

You may enter your artwork by sending it to arts@keele.ac.uk. Image files must be clearly labelled with the artist name and title of entry in the following format 'Firstname-Surname_title-of-artwork'. All work must a maximum of 5MB . We recommend you follow the guidelines in our submission guidelines for taking a photograph of your image, we may not be able to judge the work otherwise.

Original artwork, created by you, the artist, only. We accept limited edition prints, please state if it is a print.

Unfortunately, we are not able to include all entries to the exhibition. You will be notified by email if your work will be included or not, by 6th July 2023.

You cannot remove your artwork from the show. The placement of your work is decided by a team of people and we are not able to change it once we

have decided - our decision is final. We take a great deal of time, thought and effort to hang the large quantity of work on display and have considered where each piece should be placed.

All work must be delivered on Saturday 22nd July to Burslem School of Art, and must be the work that was submitted on the entry. Alternative work will not be accepted. You cannot change your submission once you have sent the image. Please send the image straight after submitting the form.

The exhibition will run throughout the summer from 29 July - 29th August 2023.

For enquiries and support please email: arts@keele.ac.uk. We anticipate a high volume of emails, so please allow 5-7 working days for a response.

We are proudly in partnership with ACAVA, Appetite, Barewall Gallery, Burslem School of Art, City Learning Trust Ltd.

T&CS

Ready to submit?

Submission Form Link

[<https://forms.office.com/e/L9S4YsF7mG>]