**Submission Guidelines 2024**   
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 to enter.

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# Accessibility

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.

These guidelines are available in PDF and Word format. Please let us know if you need an alternative format.

If you require further support with the digital submission, please email open.art@keele.ac.uk

or call +44 1782 734340

on Mondays from 13th May between 11am-1pm and we will be happy to support you in alternative ways of submitting.

Please leave a message and we will respond within 5 working days.

# Welcome

Welcome! Thank you for taking the time to submit your work for Three Counties Open Art 2024, 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.

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.

**We have an updated email address:**

[**open.art@keele.ac.uk**](mailto:open.art@keele.ac.uk)

This year, we have broadened our categories to including Contemporary Art Practice - Live Performance and Installation, alongside 2D and 3D work.

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.

# Key Dates

* Online Submission Open: 09:00am Friday 3rd May 2024
* Online Submission Close: 23:59pm Wednesday 12th June 2024
* Notification of Decision: 3 - 5th July 2024
* Delivery of Artwork: Saturday 20th July 2024
* Preview Evening: Friday 27th July TBC
* Exhibition Opens: Friday 27th July TBC
* Workshops: August TBC
* Exhibition Closes: Saturday 24th August
* Artwork Collection: August TBC

# Eligibility

You must be aged 16 and over to enter.

You must be connected to one of the 3 counties (Staffordshire, Cheshire, or Shropshire). 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 artwork. 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 or submitted 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 Guidelines

Submission opens at 09:00am 3rd May and closes 23:59pm on 12th June 2024.

Number of entries

We are limiting entries to 1 artwork per person or collective, except for 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 type the name of the collective in the \*First Name\* box and write \*Collective\* in the surname box.

Categories

This year we have broadened the categories to encompass a wider range of contemporary art mediums.

- 2D Work (i.e. drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles, photography etc)

- 3D work (i.e. sculpture)

- Contemporary Art Practice - Live/Performance Art\*

- Installation

\* For Contemporary Art Practice Please let us know how you imagine your work to be presented during the Open Art Show, whether this be a live sharing on a given date, and if there will be any lasting work on-site during the show (question).

Scale of work

For 3D Work Please let us know the weight (in kg - max 25kg) and height-width-depth dimensions of the work below (question 10). If your work is larger than 1.5m x 1.5m it will be considered an Installation.

For Installations If your work is larger than 1.5m x 1.5m, it will be considered as an installation. Please note, that due to space restrictions only a small number of installations will be accepted.

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. See our separate guide for more info. 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 linked here - <https://forms.office.com/e/2UZEB4NpL7>

2. Sending an image of your submission to: [open.art@keele.ac.uk](mailto:open.art@keele.ac.uk)

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

YourFirstname-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. 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.

Judging

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

# FAQs

**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 not 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 would be more than happy to help you.

Please call: 01782 734340

on Mondays between 13th May - 5th June, 11am-1pm only

or send us an email at:

[open.art@keele.ac.uk](mailto:open.art@keele.ac.uk)

**What if my work does not fit into a category?**

We have broadened the categories this year 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 (23:59pm) on 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 are submitting.

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

Please read this guide carefully. If we have not answered your question here or in the guide, please contact us at [open.art@keele.ac.uk](mailto:open.art@keele.ac.uk), but please note we will take 5-7 working days to respond to any queries.

# Terms and Conditions

1. Artists must be aged 16+

2. The Three Counties Open is open to all artists connected to Cheshire, Shropshire, and Staffordshire.

3. All work submitted must be solely produced by the artist(s) applying for the show.

4. You agree to your work being used in marketing and online digital platforms.

5. Work must have been completed in the last 2 years.

6. 2D Works should not be larger than 2 metres along the longest dimension.

7. More than two images of the artwork should be supplied where it is necessary to show 3-D work properly.

8. 3D Work weight max 25kg. If your 3D work is larger than 1.5m x 1.5m it will be considered an Installation.

9. Installations is 3D work larger than 1.5m x 1.5m, it will be considered as an installation.

10. Entrants must ensure that they have the commercial rights if they are currently represented by a publisher so that there is no conflict of interests.

11. The Three Counties Open respects your rights and does not claim copyright for works you submit to the contest. You will retain full copyright in each entry.

12. Any works sold at the exhibitions will incur a 30% commission, sold via Barewall Gallery. It is the artist’s choice if they wish their work to be on sale.

13. The Three Counties Open will not be responsible for any travel or personal expenses to the Three Counties Open exhibition.

14. The winners agree to permit external communication of the artwork, not limited to, but including: publicity; press; website; social media; and any printed or digital material.

15. The judges’ decision is final.

16. Artwork submitted for exhibition must be available until the end of the show.

17. Selected work must be delivered ready to exhibit and in good condition. Work may be turned away otherwise.

18.  Applicants are responsible for correctly pricing/sizing/describing their artwork. Changes will not be accepted.

19. The artist will be responsible for the delivery and collection of artworks for the exhibition, and for insurance whilst in transit and for the duration that the artwork is with the Three Counties Open for exhibitions.

20.  Although strict handling measures are adhered to in receiving and handling work, for the avoidance of doubt, The Three Counties Open Art can accept no liability whatsoever for any damage or loss to the Artwork whilst in transit or during the show (whilst in the care or being stored by the organisers). Artists who wish to do so should explore insuring their work.

21. You, or a nominated person must deliver your work on the date given. You cannot deliver an alternative piece of work than the one submitted.

22. The placement of your work is decided by a team of experts - our decision placement is final.

22. You must be able to collect your work yourself or a nominated person on the collection date given. We are not able to store work.