

BALTIC

Baltic Open Submission 2026 | Guidelines

Baltic Open Submission 2026 will showcase painting, sculpture, photography, video and more by artists, makers, self-taught creatives and hobbyists based in the North East of England.

Baltic's Open Submission initiative, now in its third iteration, seeks to give visibility to individuals and collectives, whose practice may not previously have been seen by a public audience. No training, qualifications, or experience of exhibiting publicly is necessary to submit an artwork.

There is no theme to this 18+ open call.

There will be two artists selected for commissions from the successful applicants. One will be for our Lightbox and one for a flag. The artists selected for these will be contacted separately.

How to enter

- Apply online via Submittable. Please follow this link:
<https://balticcentreforcontemporaryart.submittable.com/submit>
- You will need to register with Submittable (if you do not have an existing account) and will need an email address to do this.
- It is free to register and submit an artwork for consideration by the panel.
- **Please refer to the guidelines below before submitting a work.**
- Should you still have a query, there is an option to contact Baltic directly through Submittable.
- You can only submit one work. Please submit up to 6 images of this work via Submittable or 3 images via post.
- The 100 word text box on Submittable is to describe your work, the idea behind it and what inspired you to make it.

Please note that the work you submit must be available for the exhibition at Baltic and must be available between 24 August 2026 – May 2027.

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Eligibility

- Anyone based in the North East of England is eligible to enter. You do not need to have a formal arts education or have displayed your work in public before.
- You must be based in the North East of England. Those residing in the following postcodes are eligible: NE, DL, DH, SR, TS and TD15.
- All media is eligible for submission. Examples include painting, drawing, sculpture, film, tapestry, photography.
- Please note we are only able to receive documentation (video or photo) of live performance.
- Any moving image work will be displayed on a looped programme. We are unable to provide an individual dedicated screen for Audiovisual works.
- We are unlikely to accept artworks that are bigger than 100 x 100 cm for wall-based works and 100 x 100 cm at the base for floor-based 3D works.
- The total weight of wall-based artworks must be no more than 10 kg when packed.
- The total weight of 3D artworks must be no more than 80 kg when packed.
- Any suspended artworks must weigh no more than 50 kg.
- Baltic cannot accept works that contain food substances, noxious or toxic substances, have flammability below 50°C, contain human or animal tissue, or incorporate dangerous electrical appliances. All electrical appliances will be PAT tested by Baltic upon arrival.
- Baltic stands to denounce racism and discrimination in all its forms and will not accept any works that communicate any form of racism or discrimination.
- Confirmed participants will be notified by Thursday 6 August 2026. You will only be notified via email if your work is selected. Due to the expected high volume of applications, we are unable to offer individual feedback if unsuccessful.

Please note, works that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered for selection by the panel.

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Key dates

- **Tuesday 12 May 2026:** Submission process opens
- **Thursday 4 June, 10am to 4pm:** Online and in-person Q&A drop-in session
- **Tuesday 16 June 2026, 10am:** Submission process closes
- **Tuesday 16 June 2026:** Last day for postal entries to be received
- **Thursday 6 August 2026:** All successful applicants contacted
- **Thursday 20 August 2026:** Artists announced to media
- **Monday 24 – Sunday 30 August 2026:** Participants to deliver the works selected for the exhibition to Baltic. The schedule for this will be confirmed in detail to each participant closer to the time
- **Friday 18 September 2026:** Exhibition Preview Party
- **19 September 2026 – May 2027:** Exhibition open to the public

Access

- Should you have further access needs not accounted for in this online application process please contact Baltic on youthopen@baltic.art or please call 0191 478 1810.
- You can also make an entry by post. **Please DO NOT send original artwork:** we are unable to include original artwork in our selection process. **Only images of work will be accepted for submission.** We are unable to return artworks sent to us by post.
- Postal entries can be received until **Tuesday 16 June 2026.**

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What's required for postal entries

Maximum 2 sheets of A4 paper. Please include your contact details including:

- Your name
- Postal address
- Email
- Phone number (if available)
- A short statement about your work (maximum 100 words) or a video or audio recording
- Up to 3 images of the work you are submitting to be considered by the panel for selection in the exhibition at Baltic.
- Please DO NOT send original artwork: we are unable to include original artwork in our selection process. Only images of work will be accepted for submission. We are unable to return artworks sent to us by post.

Please send to:

Baltic Open Submission 2026
FAO Rose McMurray & Rosie Coleman Collier
Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art
South Shore Road
Gateshead
NE8 3BA

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Display

- Framed and glazed wall-based works will be fitted with appropriate hanging methods, if not supplied by the artist in advance. Permission is granted to Baltic to modify, if necessary, with additional hanging methods or replace any original hanging methods if not suitable.
- If you choose to submit an unframed work, it will be strictly at your own risk. Methods of wall application (pins, adhesive) are likely to result in damage to the surface of the work. Submission without a frame gives permission to Baltic to use any adequate hanging methods where necessary.
- All works will be delivered in a condition to withstand handling by Baltic staff and display to the public at the venue. All work will be installed by Baltic staff and technicians. Artists are not required to be onsite during install period.
- How and where all works will be displayed in the gallery will be decided by the curator and the Baltic programme team.
- Artists will be responsible for delivering selected works for the installation of the exhibition and collecting at the end of the exhibition period. All work is to be delivered to Baltic on a designated date between Monday 24 – Sunday 30 August 2026: This will be explained in further detail to each participant closer to the time. Collection dates are to be confirmed.