



200th Annual Exhibition

OPEN ART 2026 Awards and Opportunities

ABOUT AWARDS

We are pleased to offer over £24,000 in monetary awards, plus in-kind opportunities, to exhibitors in the RSA Annual Exhibition, both from our own funds and from a host of external award givers. We are extremely grateful to all of our external award givers for their support of the exhibition.

This document contains a list of confirmed awards for 2026. Some awards may still be added. Please note the following information:

- Award winners are selected by the RSA Awards Committee (comprising Royal Scottish Academicians) or by representatives of the organisations giving the award (External Awards).
- Both Pre-selected and Selected Artists may be considered for awards.
- Results of award selection will be publicised after the opening of the exhibition.
- Artists will automatically be considered for any award that their work is deemed eligible for. In some instances we require artists to confirm additional eligibility details or to 'opt-in' to be considered for an award. This is done in the '**Additional Details/Questions**' section in the online application before you upload your artwork entries. It is important that these questions are answered accurately. Please note that answers to these eligibility questions will have no bearing on selection of work for the exhibition.
- Award details and criteria are not open to negotiation. Please note that many RSA Awards are from historic funds which have restrictions for their use.

EXTERNAL AWARDS

*** New for 2026**

*** RSA David McClure Centenary Travel Award**

£5,000 for travel

Funded by the family of [David McClure RSA](#) (1926 - 1998) in celebration of the centenary of his birth, this award offers £5,000 to fund a period of European travel for an artist in the 200th RSA Annual Exhibition. The travel should be beneficial to the artist's practice, allowing them to research, develop and produce new work.

Open applicants must 'opt-in' for this award during the open application process if they - 1. wish to be considered for this opportunity; 2. are eligible based on the criteria below; 3. agree to the eligibility/requirements stated below.

- This award is for artists submitting work the categories of drawing, painting or printmaking.
- Travel must be within Europe and funds must be put solely towards enabling the travel and research/development of work in relation to that travel.
- The artist should either be based in or have strong links to in Scotland.
- By 'opting in' to this award, the applicant agrees that if selected they will provide a brief proposal of their intended travel, confirming the destination and highlighting how it will benefit their practice and any expected outcomes. The artist must update the RSA on expected travel dates and provide an evaluation report on completion of the award. Other than this, the award would be self-directed. The artist should credit the award with any work directly resulting from it.
- Travel should be completed within one year of the date awarded.

*** RSA Jack Vettriano Award**

£7,500

A new award of £7,500, funded by the Estate of the late Jack Vettriano, intended for an artist whose talent has so far gone unrecognised. The artist should not have received any formal Art School training and should have had limited previous opportunities or representation.

Open applicants must confirm eligibility for this award during the open application process by answering NO to the question 'I have previously studied at an Art School'.

*** RSA Changing Ideas Award**

£3,000

Changing Ideas is a charity that funds initiatives addressing human rights and social injustice, and supports public interest campaigners, lawyers and journalists driving real world change.

This new award celebrates work in the RSA Annual Exhibition exploring urgent themes of social change. Open applicants must 'opt in' during the application process if they - 1. consider their submitted work(s) to be eligible based on the criteria below; 2. agree to the requirements stated below.

- Work eligible for this award should engage directly with social issues such as, but not limited to, gender inequality, media freedom, democracy, climate change etc.
- By 'opting in' to this award, the applicant agrees that if their work is pre-selected for the exhibition they will provide, on request, a short text highlighting their work(s) connection to an important social issue. This will be used to support the process of selecting the overall winner.
- As well as a monetary award of £3,000, the winner will have a description of their work displayed on the gallery wall to highlight the work's social impact.
- All pre-selected artworks that are eligible for this award will have their work highlighted in the gallery by a QR code linking to a dedicated an online viewing room on our website, including the text they have provided.

W. Gordon Smith and Jay Gordonsmith Award

£4,000

For outstanding work in any category. Award can be split.

Lyon and Turnbull Award

£1,000

For outstanding work in any category.

The Highland Society of London Award

£500

For the best work by a Highlander, including Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney. Open applicants must confirm eligibility by answering YES to the question 'I was born, brought up or currently reside in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, including Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney.'

The Scottish Gallery | William Macaulay Award

£250

For outstanding work in any category.

Scottish Arts Club Prize

Free membership to the Scottish Arts Club for two years and solo exhibition at their premises in Rutland Square, Edinburgh.

For outstanding work in any category.

The Scottish Artists' Benevolent Association (SABA) Award

£500

For outstanding work in any category.

An Talla Solais Award

Use of a studio at An Talla Solais (Ullapool Visual Arts) for up to 4 weeks at a time to be negotiated of convenience to both the artist and ATS, subject to official restrictions.

Please note this is studio use only and NOT accommodation. If taken up, the residency is to be supported with up to £250 expenses to assist the artist (this can be a contribution to accommodation, travel, materials or whatever else helps the residency to go ahead).

For outstanding work in any category.

Edinburgh Printmakers Residency Award

30 sessions (the equivalent of 1-month free studio use), 1 year membership, a printmaking course, accommodation in EP's artists apartment and £100 materials budget.

For outstanding work in any category.

Edinburgh College of Art Library Prize

1 year borrowing membership.

For an artist based in or near Edinburgh, preferably an early career artist.

RSA AWARDS

RSA Guthrie Award

£750 plus a medal

For an outstanding work by a Scottish artist under 35 (at time of submission deadline).

RSA Maud Gemmell Hutchison Bequest

Two awards of £600 each

For the 2 best paintings or drawings of an animal(s) in memory of George Jackson Hutchison.

RSA Open Exhibition Prize

£500

For an artist of any age working in any medium who has submitted to via Open application.

RSA Othillie Helen Wallace Prize

£250

For a work by a female sculptor of any age.

RSA Latimer Awards

Two awards of £250 each

For meritorious work by Scottish artists under 35 (at time of submission deadline).

RSA Benno Schotz Prize

£250

For the most promising work by a Scottish artist under 35 (at time of submission deadline) domiciled in Scotland.

RSA Keith Prize

£250

For the best work by a student of any age studying Fine Art at a Scottish Art School.

RSA Meyer Oppenheim Prize

£250

For a work in any medium by an artist under 35 (at the time of registration).

RSA Muirhead Fund

Purchase prize

For the purchase of work by a living artist, preferably watercolours.

RSA Architecture Prize

£250

For the best work by an architect who has submitted to via Open application.

RSA Medal for Architecture

Medal

For the best work by an architect under 35 (at the time of registration).

