

Guidance for submissions

The Young Artists' Summer Show is an opportunity for UK-based young artists aged 4-18 to make and share a piece of artwork that truly expresses their own voice. There is no set theme and we welcome submissions covering a range of techniques including drawing, painting, printing, photography, sculpture, textile, fashion, animation, video, and more.

What we're looking for:

- Judges are looking for imagination, originality and skill.
- Each artist can submit one artwork along with a short artist statement or description, written in the artist's own words where possible. Rather than solely focussing on the artmaking process, we encourage artists to describe why an artwork was created and what it means to them. Descriptions must be no more than 80 words and, if the work is selected, it will be subject to editing by the RA ahead of display.
- Capturing a good image of the artwork is very important and could influence the way that the artwork is viewed by the judges. You can read more about photographing your artwork in our FAQ's.
- If you are a teacher who intends to submit artwork for each student in your class, we advise against submitting visually similar works.
- We recommend submitting well ahead of the deadline to avoid last-minute or technical difficulties.

We can't accept submissions that:

- Exceed 950mm wide x 3000mm high.
- Pose a health and safety risk.
- Are submitted late.
- Might infringe others' rights or break the law in any way, including copyright. Although many great artists 'copy' in creative ways, we are looking for original artwork.

So please avoid submitting artworks solely depicting characters from popular culture, including TV, animation or comic books, for example.

- Are AI-generated.
- Contain content in the artwork or artist statement that may be sensitive or otherwise unsuitable to display publicly in an exhibition for artists aged 4–18.

The RA is committed to freedom of expression and, at the same time, has a duty to safeguard the young people involved in and visiting the show. All submissions must therefore be considered within this context. This is not always possible to predict in advance and for that reason submissions will be subject to review, through the selection process described in the Terms and Conditions of Entry.

Supporting young artists to create and submit original artworks is an achievement and something worth celebrating. We encourage this to be the focus over being accepted into the show. We enjoy seeing each and every artwork submitted and can't wait to see what our young artists will make this year!

If you would like further support submitting artwork, please contact us at

YASS@royalacademy.org.uk

Young Artists' Summer Show

Have a look at the previous exhibitions on our website to give you some inspiration and here are some good examples of original ideas and interesting descriptions to get you started.



A Collection of Numbers (sculpture)
by Ethan, aged 5

A collection of numbers were having a lovely day, when bad guy 7 comes along to eat them. But never mind, superhero 1 is going to save the day!



Here Comes the Kickflip (painting)
by Oskar, aged 11

This is me, the feeling of determination mixed with a sense of freedom and taking off into the air when I try to do a kickflip when I'm skateboarding. I wanted to focus just on my legs, the board, and the landscape around. It's the moment when you have to trust your legs and psyche yourself up to do this difficult move. I wanted it to feel full of movement and excitement.



I Just Want To Be Seen (mixed media)
by William, aged 18

I adore film and TV, but where were my role models whilst growing up? I never saw myself represented so in my film poster homage to Edgar Wright's 'Hot Fuzz', I have made myself the "hero" that I wanted to see on the big screen. I have studied the work of Cindy Sherman, Cold War Steve and Jo Spence ('Putting Myself in the Picture') to solidify my ideas about myself and how the world sees me. #EndAbleism #DontDismissDis