

# Open Exhibition Guidelines

**Exhibition Dates:** 8 May – 26 July 2026

**Location:** Sugar Store & Foyer Galleries

Our annual Brewery Arts Open Exhibition, showcases the talent of local artists, with artwork selected from our open submissions. This is to present an undeniably diverse and distinctive range of voices from around Cumbria. This exhibition is open to applicants aged 18 and over.

## Key Contacts:

- General enquiries: [exhibitions@breweryarts.co.uk](mailto:exhibitions@breweryarts.co.uk)
- Learning & Engagement Officer, Visual Arts: [Helena.mcgregor@breweryarts.co.uk](mailto:Helena.mcgregor@breweryarts.co.uk)
- Learning & Engagement Administrator: [Libby.gallagher@breweryarts.co.uk](mailto:Libby.gallagher@breweryarts.co.uk)
- Learning & Engagement Manager: [Rebecca.stephendenby@breweryarts.co.uk](mailto:Rebecca.stephendenby@breweryarts.co.uk)

## Exhibition Timeline:

2 Jan	Sales and Submissions Portal (on the website) goes live. Artwork images to be sent to <a href="mailto:exhibitions@breweryarts.co.uk">exhibitions@breweryarts.co.uk</a>
6 March	Final submission and payment submission date.
23–27 Mar	Selection panel view work and make decisions
2 Apr	Artists advised of selection decisions on or before this date
5 May	Selected works to be delivered to BA between 11am and 1pm
6/7 May	Hanging / Installation of Exhibition
8 May	Exhibition Opens
8 May	Private View, 5.30–7.30pm
16 Jul	Prize Giving and Celebration Event, 6–7.30pm (announcements made at 6.30pm approx.).
26 Jul	Exhibition Ends
27 July	Exhibition uninstalled
28 July	Collection of unsold artwork between 11 and 1pm

# Submission & Selection Process

## Submitting Your Work:

- Submit the Open Submission Form via the website link (and pay the submission fee).
- There is a total hanging and submission fee, per artist, of £10, regardless of whether your work is selected for the exhibition. Artists pay £10 flat fee to submit up to 3 pieces of artwork. To pay, click on the red 'Book Tickets' button on the Open Exhibition webpage: [www.breweryarts.co.uk/event/brewery-arts-open-exhibition-2026/](http://www.breweryarts.co.uk/event/brewery-arts-open-exhibition-2026/)
- Payment must be made on or before 6 March 2026, along with the Submission form.
- Email digital images (JPG/JPEG format) of your submitted work, as attachments, not inline, labelled with the title, dimensions and Artist's name via email to [exhibitions@breweryarts.co.uk](mailto:exhibitions@breweryarts.co.uk) by 6 March 2026.
- Please ensure the images of your work are sharp and cropped appropriately, and are true to the actual artwork (no filters etc.).
- There is no maximum size, but dimensions may be taken into consideration during the selection process. Please be mindful of the size of our gallery space - your work will be exhibited alongside other artists. If you have any concerns about the size or weight of your artwork please contact [Helena.mcgregor@breweryarts.co.uk](mailto:Helena.mcgregor@breweryarts.co.uk)

## Art Forms:

- Artwork can be 2D, 3D or digital.
- Sculptural work will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the presentation of sculpture may be limited by space, plinth and case requirements.
- All work must be original, no reproductions and no browser items, cards etc.
- There are 3 fixed screens located in the Brewery Arts Main Foyer (next to the Foyer Gallery) to exhibit digital artwork and/or film (MP4 format or jpegs - 1920 x 1080, landscape), so this will be subject to availability when selecting from submissions.

## Selection Process:

- All submissions will be reviewed and work is selected for the exhibition by the selection panel, made up of artists, educators, curators, and Brewery Arts community members.
- Artists will be advised of their selection by end of day 2 April 2026.
- Brewery arts reserves the right to reject any work submitted without giving any reason. Work will be selected in the context of this exhibition and gallery space. Not being selected does not imply any judgement on the artwork, merely on whether it fits well in this context.
- We welcome submissions from visual artists and makers in any art forms and the selected pieces will be based on presenting a diverse and distinctive range of voices from around Cumbria. We will be looking for original ideas and a diverse mix of media/genres to represent the range of talent in the community.

## Presentation of Selected Artwork:

- Selected artists must deliver the selected work to Brewery Arts on Tuesday 5 May 2026 between 11am-1pm for hanging on 6 & 7 May 2026, by Brewery Arts' curator.
- Work to be wall hung must have secure 'D rings' with connecting string, or similar, to allow for two points of hanging on Brewery Arts cable system, this is the artists responsibility.
- Artwork cannot be submitted on foam board, mount board or in clip frames as this will not work with the hanging system.
- Brewery Arts has 4 x plinths and 3 x display cabinets, subject to availability. If unavailable, these will need to be provided by the artist, and approved by Helena McGregor due to Health and Safety regulations.
- Digital or Film based work selected for the exhibition should be in the following format: MP4 or jpegs - 1920 x 1080, landscape.
- All final selected work needs to be delivered with the name and title on the back and a label hanging in front of the work showing the artist name, title of the piece, medium and purchase price.

## Important:

- The gallery spaces are public spaces and will be unsupervised, therefore, artwork is displayed at your own risk. Artists are agreeing to provide artwork to Brewery Arts for display and for it to be exhibited in an unsupervised and public space .
- Whilst every care will be taken to ensure safekeeping, exhibitors are recommended to make their own arrangements for insurance cover. Brewery Arts accepts no liability for loss or damage, however caused.

## Exhibition Arrangements

### Installation & Curation:

- Artwork will be hung by the Brewery Arts curator on the 6 & 7 May 2026.
- Artwork submitted will be installed in either the Foyer Gallery or Sugar Store Gallery, this decision lies with the curator and is dependent on a number of factors.
- Brewery Arts will be responsible for the marketing, signage/labels.

### Private View Event:

- There will be a private view for the artists, plus guest, and invited guests at Brewery Arts on 8 May 2026 at 5.30–7.30pm.

### Commission:

- This will be a selling exhibition – Brewery Arts will charge 35% commission on all sales.
- Sales are not guaranteed, it is suggested/encouraged that all participating artists use their own social media presence to increase the potential to reach a greater audience.

### Collection of Sold Work:

- Local purchasers will be asked to leave work until the end of the exhibition.
- Those from further afield will be allowed to take work at the time of purchase.
- The artist will be responsible for any arrangements, costs, packing and sending of work if requested by the purchaser.
- Brewery Arts will not post artwork to buyers.

### Collection of Unsold Work:

- Unsold work is to be collected from Brewery Arts on 28 July 2026 between 11 and 1pm. The exhibition will be uninstalled on the 27 July 2026.

## Awards

### Prizes:

- During selection, the selection panel will select one artist for the **Judges Choice Award**. During the exhibition, viewers will be asked to vote for their favourite artworks, resulting in a **Public Choice Award**. Both awards will be announced during the Celebration/Prize Giving Event, 16 Jul 2026, towards the end of the exhibition.

*NB: Previous years prize winners are not eligible to win 2 consecutive years in a row.*

### Judges Choice Award:

- Solo exhibition at Brewery Arts in the downstairs Foyer Gallery during Spring 2027

### Peoples Choice Award:

- £100 Vouchers for Youdells Art Shop, Kendal.  
– for use on framing, arts materials and more.



### Prize Giving Event:

- There will be a prize giving event on 16 Jul 2026 at 6–7.30pm. The Public choice Award and Judges Choice Award will be announced.

### Artist Responsibilities Summary:

- Timely submission of form, payment of fees and emailing good quality images.
- Appropriate presentation of artwork as detailed in specifications above.
- Transportation of artwork to and from Brewery Arts on specified dates and times.
- Delivering artwork to Brewery Arts on agreed date. Brewery Arts has no space to safely store artwork prior to installation.
- Artists are encouraged to promote the exhibition on social media and websites.
- Any arrangements, costs, packing and sending of work if requested by the buyer.
- Insurance cover at artist's discretion.

# Gallery Information

## The Gallery Spaces:



**The Sugar Store Gallery** (Fig. 1 - so named for its former life in the old Brewery), is located on the 3rd floor and is accessible via stairs or the lift. The space measures approx. 10m x 6m, with the height of the exhibition paneled wall at approx. 2.3m, although this then gives way to a large loft ceiling with large beams and skylights. Close to the centre of the room is a stairwell leading up from the main foyer, which has an optional platform for use during exhibitions. There are also various doors and archways leading to the bar, the theatre and the lift, meaning there is a lot of foot traffic as people use it as a through route to other areas of the building.

**The Foyer Gallery** (Fig. 2) is located on the ground floor, in the main entrance foyer, in close proximity to the welcome desk, the Theatre entrance and the Theatre Bar (open for pre-show and interval refreshments). This means the Foyer Gallery benefits from a high level of foot traffic throughout each day (the foyer being the main access point to the rest of the venue) and even more foot traffic and wider audiences during live events. The exhibition wall is approx. 955cm long and 184cm in height, with the optional availability of 3 fixed digital screens for display of digital artwork and/or film. The Foyer Gallery can be used in conjunction with the Sugar Store Gallery, as part of a larger exhibition.

## Brewery Arts Hanging System:

- Hooks: STAS zipper on perlon cord - carries loads up to 15 kg (33 lbs) - however, the rails have their own weight limit.
- Hanging rail: STAS cliprail pro can carry up to 45 kg per linear metre.



Fig. 1

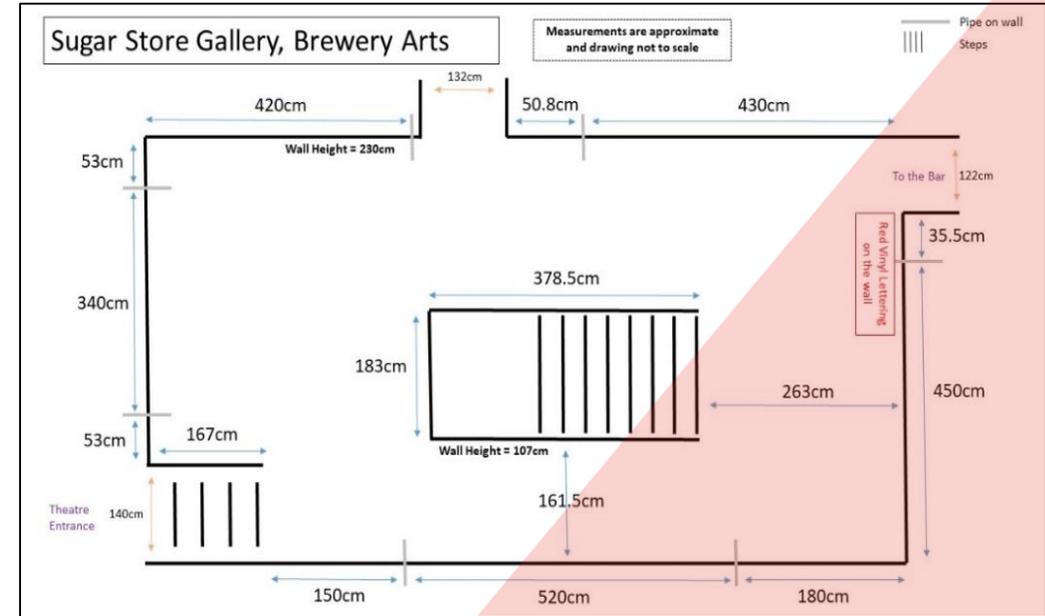


Fig. 2

