Guidance for submissions

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a great opportunity to engage creatively with young people, offering them the chance to make and share a piece of artwork that truly expresses their own voice. There is no theme and we accept artworks of any kind. A drawing, painting, print, photograph, sculpture, textile piece, video, performance piece, or surprise us!

Judges are looking for imagination, originality and skill. Although many great artists 'copy' in creative ways, artworks that closely reproduce another artist's work or ideas won't be selected.

Each submission can include a short written statement, written by the artist themselves (if possible) and can include why they created the work and what it means to them.

A good image of the artwork is very important and could influence the way that the artwork is viewed by the judges. Read our 'How to photograph your artwork' document for some helpful tips and tricks.

Teachers, if you intend to submit artwork for each student in your class, we advise against submitting works that are visually similar.

Supporting young artists to create and submit original artworks is an achievement and something worth celebrating, even if their work isn't selected. We enjoy seeing each and every artwork that is sent and can't wait to see what is submitted this year!

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

YASS@royalacademy.org.uk



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.







Blackbird on a Branch Georgia, Age 8

I did this piece because on the day I saw a blackbird on a branch and I also wanted to practice drawing hands.

Popped out of my head Charlotte, Age 9

I made an Easter hat from things I had at home. The hat structure which is mostly covered up is made of papier-mâché and the nest is made of twigs from our garden. The egg is also of papier-mâché using a balloon and a bowl as a mould.

Map of Vazuliland Daniel, Age 10

I really like maps and geography. A while ago I created an imaginary country called Yay. I drew lots of maps of this country and changed it as I got new ideas. This map is of the main island of Yay, called Vazuliland. I got my inspiration from looking at real maps but I use my own style.



Ring-Tailed Lemur Ellie, Age 16

Sculpture constructed from card of the famous Madagascan ring-tailed lemur. I was inspired to create a sculpture of this animal due to its distinctive long, black and white ringed tail. Furthermore, I sourced an image of a lemur with its tail arched upwards which I mirrored in my sculpture to give it a sense of urgency and an almost waiting stance, like it could leap towards you at any given moment. I also brought in a natural device, the branch, to give the sculpture an organic element.



I Just Want To Be Seen William, Age 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