

Young Artists' Summer Show

Guidelines for Submissions

This document has been created to provide some guidance on what kinds of works the judges are looking for when they review entries to the Young Artists' Summer Show.

Although we encourage you to read through the following suggestions, our priority is to ensure that any young artist is supported to create and submit a piece of work that comes most naturally to them.

If you would like further support in submitting your work, please contact the YASS team by emailing **YASS@royalacademy.org.uk**

For teachers

The Young Artists' Summer Show could be a great opportunity to engage with your students creatively in the classroom. There is no theme to the exhibition, and we accept artworks in any medium at all, so your students have the opportunity to create a piece of work that truly expresses their own creative voice.

To get them started, it might be worth asking them to scroll through the artworks from previous exhibitions [here](#)

Here are some tips to help you along:

The kinds of artworks that have been chosen in the past illustrate a young artists' creative imagination, originality and skill. Although many great artists 'copy' in creative ways, we would not be able to accept artworks that closely reproduce another artist's work or ideas or that looks like an existing artwork.

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

Each submission can include a short statement to accompany the work. This statement should add context to the work and often helps the judges understand the work better. Wherever possible, the statement should be written by the artist themselves and should attempt to include information about why they created the work and what it means to them.

How the artwork is photographed is also very important and could influence the way that the artwork is viewed by the judges. Please read through our separate document titled '[How to photograph your artwork](#)' for some helpful tips and tricks.

Have fun with it!

Supporting young artists to create and submit original artworks is an achievement and something worth celebrating regardless of whether they're selected to be part of the final exhibition.

For parents

This could be a great way to get creative at home and to encourage your young artist to make an original artwork of their own. There is no theme to the exhibition, and we accept artworks in any medium at all, so your young artist has the opportunity to create a piece of work that truly expresses their own creative choice.

If you're seeking inspiration, it might be worth asking them to scroll through the artworks from previous exhibitions [here](#)

Here are some tips to help you along:

The judges are looking for artworks that are original and illustrate the young artist's imagination, creativity and skill. Although many great artists 'copy' in creative ways, we would not be able to accept artworks that closely reproduce another artist's work or ideas or that looks like an existing artwork, like popular cartoon characters for example.

Each submission can include a short statement to accompany the work. This statement should add context to the work and often helps the judges understand the work better. Wherever possible, the statement should be written by the artist themselves and should attempt to include information about why they created the work and what it means to them.

How the artwork is photographed is also very important and could influence the way that the artwork is viewed by the judges. Please read through our separate document titled '[How to photograph your artwork](#)' for some helpful tips and tricks.

Have fun with it!

Supporting your young artist to create and submit an original artwork is an achievement and something worth celebrating regardless of whether or not it's selected to be part of the final exhibition.

For students

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a great opportunity for you to create an original artwork that could end up being displayed at the RA and online!

If you don't know where to begin, it might be worth finding inspiration by looking through the artworks that were chosen in **previous exhibitions**.

Here are some tips to help you along:

There is no theme to the exhibition, and we accept artworks of any kind. You could make a drawing, a painting or a print, take a photograph, make a sculpture, create a textile piece, shoot a video, submit a performance piece. The choice is yours!

The judges are looking for artworks that are original to you. Please don't submit a piece that is a direct copy of another artists' image, or drawings of characters that already exist, such as cartoon characters. The judges will not accept an artwork that is not an original idea.

We are interested in seeing your personality, imagination, thoughts and feelings coming out through the work.

When you submit your artwork, we ask you to include a short written statement about the work. Sometimes this statement can really help us understand what the artwork is about and why you have made it. Try to be as honest as you can in the statement, and let us know why you've made the work and what it means to you.

Have fun with it!

Making art shouldn't be about winning prizes, it should be about expressing yourself in the way that comes naturally to you. And creating an original piece of work and submitting it into the competition is an accomplishment to be proud of.

You can look at all of the artworks from last year's exhibition [here](#) to give you some inspiration, but 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