

Bolton Library and Museum Services

OPEN

Art Exhibition

14 February – 17 May 2026

Entry guidelines and submission form

Prizes sponsored by



Bolton
at Home

Visitors' Choice Award £250 Voucher,
Bromleys Art Supplies

Bolton Library and Museum Services, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton BL1 1SE
www.boltonlams.co.uk

Bolton
Council

Bolton Library and Museum Services Open Art Exhibition

Saturday 14 February – Sunday 17 May 2026

This popular open submission exhibition offers artists and craftspeople who live, work or study in Bolton the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work.

We welcome entries from artists working in a variety of media including painting, drawing, print, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, photography and digital.

Prizes

The 2026 Open Art exhibition will award a

Winner's Prize

Visitors' Choice Award

Young Artist Award

Bromleys Art Supplies are sponsoring the **Visitors' Choice award** with a £250 voucher to spend on art supplies.

The Young Artist Award recognises the achievements of an artist aged 16 to 23. The £250 award is sponsored by Bolton at Home.

Judges

The selection panel are:

- **Amy Brunn**, Exhibitions Manager, Salford Museum & Art Gallery
- **Professor Kirsty Fairclough**, School of Digital Arts, Manchester Metropolitan University
- **David Gledhill**, artist and co-director of Rogue Artists' Studios, Manchester
- **Young People's Panel**

Entry guidelines

Please read carefully

Who can enter?

- Artists must currently live, work or be in education within the borough of Bolton.
- Artists must be 16 years of age or over.

What can be entered?

- Work may be in any visual arts medium (except installations and live performance). Digital art and original craft will be accepted.
 - Work should not exceed 180cm in any dimension and should not need more than two people to carry it.
 - All work entered must be original and produced within the last three years.
 - Three-dimensional work should be sufficiently robust for open display on plinths: the museum will supply plinths. Display cases will not be used for large works. A limited number of display cases will be used to show small three-dimensional works.
- **There are three classes for submission:**

Class 1: Wall mounted work—e.g. painting, printing, wall hangings, photography, framed textiles.

Class 2: Plinth, floor based or free standing work— e.g. sculpture, ceramics, glass.

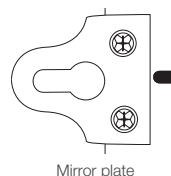
Class 3: Digital art and video.

How do I enter works of art?

- Each artist must submit one completed Entry Form.
- A **maximum of two works** may be submitted by each artist.
- Works will not be accepted at any other times than those stated below. All works must be delivered by the artist or by someone acting on their behalf. Works sent by post or carrier will not be accepted.
- Works should be submitted unwrapped. Please mark 'TOP' on back of works.

Class 1

- For **Class 1** work, please complete the entry labels and attach one to the back of each piece of work.
- All frames, including metal ones, should be fitted with clean brass mirror-plates facing outward half-way down each side. Works will not be accepted unless they have screwed on mirror plates. Clip frames will not be accepted.
- All **Class 1** works must be handed in at Bolton Museum, Le Mans Crescent
Thursday 29 January, 12 noon – 6pm or
Saturday 31 January, 10am – 4pm.



Class 2

- Artists submitting **Class 2** work should post or deliver up to six good photographs of each piece of work, with a completed entry form. These have to be at the museum by **4pm on Saturday 31 January**.
- If a **Class 2** work is selected, artists must undertake to deliver the work to the museum by **Friday 6 February**.

Class 3

- Artists submitting **Class 3** work (i.e. digital art or video) should upload the piece to an easily accessible video sharing platform (or your own website) and send a link in an email headed "Open Art 2026 – Digital submission" to collectionenquiries@bolton.gov.uk by **Saturday 31 January 2026**.
- If a **Class 3** work is selected, artists must undertake to deliver the work to the museum by **Friday 6 February**.

Judging will take place on **Tuesday 3 February 2026**

How much does it cost to enter?

- The entry fee is **£5 per work** payable at the time of submission. This may be in cash or by card. The entry fee is not refundable.

How will the judging take place?

- The judges will select solely on their assessment of artistic quality.
- Display space is limited, and the exhibition may include none, one or two works by an artist.
- The judges decisions will be final and binding, and no discussion will be entered into.
- The results of the judging will be emailed to the artists by **Friday 6 February**. Prize winners will be contacted by e-mail.
- Work may be photographed to publicise the exhibition and may be illustrated on the museum's website: **www.boltonlams.co.uk**

Can works be sold during the exhibition?

- Yes, artists can choose to have their work for sale in the exhibition.
- Bolton Library and Museum Services will charge a commission rate of 30% (plus VAT) on any work sold during the exhibition.
- Prices should include the frame where applicable. Prices cannot be advertised as negotiable or be altered during the exhibition.
- Work not for sale should be marked **N.F.S.** on the Entry Form.
- No exhibited work may be removed before the end of the exhibition.

When should work that is not selected be picked up?

Work that is not selected should be picked up on:

Tuesday 10 February from 10am – 7pm

When should exhibited work be picked up?

- Exhibited work must be collected after the exhibition has closed on:
Thursday 21 May 2026, 12 – 7pm or
Saturday 23 May 2026, 10 am – 4 pm.
- Any work remaining in the museum after **Saturday 30 May 2026** will be disposed of by the museum in any way it chooses.

When is the exhibition open?

- The Open Art Exhibition is open to the public from:
Saturday 14 February 2026 to Sunday 17 May 2026
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9am – 5pm,
Wednesday 9.30 – 5 pm, Sunday 10am – 4pm.
Admission free.

Entry Form - To be submitted with the work(s) of art

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

(if your address is not in Bolton, please also supply the name and address of your employer or educational establishment)

Name Address
..... Postcode.....
Tel: (day)..... (evening)
Email

I hereby enter the following works, and accept all the competition rules set down in the entry guidelines:

Signed Date

☐ I agree to my work being photographed for publicity reasons (please tick box).

☐ I would like to be considered for the Young People's award, and I confirm that I am aged between 16 and 23. (Please tick this box if you wish to be considered).

Entry No.1

Title
Medium
Class
Price
Insurance valuation (If NFS)

Class 2 dimensions (cm)
(H).....(D).....(W)

For Official Use

Ref No

Entry No.2

Title
Medium
Class
Price
Insurance valuation (If NFS)

Class 2 dimensions (cm)
(H).....(D).....(W)

For Official Use

Ref No

Entry label

Class 1 only

Title
Artist

Please affix to back of the entry

For Official Use

Ref No
Accepted? YES/NO

Entry label

Class 1 only

Title
Artist

Please affix to back of the entry

For Official Use

Ref No
Accepted? YES/NO

**Bolton Library and
Museum Services**



Le Mans Crescent,
Bolton BL1 1SE

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