

PHOTOGRAPHY

TAYLOR WESSING PHOTO PORTRAIT PRIZE 2026

DEADLINE

21 APR 2026

ENTRIES CLOSED

POSTED	ENTRY FEE	ONLINE
26 Mar 2026	SEE ARTICLE DETAILS	VISIT ORGANIZER

DETAILS / KEEP FOR REFERENCE

SOURCE: GRAPHIC COMPETITIONS

The Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 2026, organised by the National Portrait Gallery, is one of the most prestigious international photography competitions dedicated to contemporary portrait photography. It attracts professional photographers, emerging artists, and serious amateurs from around the world, all competing to showcase powerful, original portraits that explore identity, character, and human experience. Known for its high standards and global reputation, the competition highlights innovative photographic practices and diverse visual storytelling, making it a key opportunity for photographers seeking international recognition.

The competition is structured in two stages, beginning with a digital submission process where entrants upload their portrait photographs for initial judging. Selected photographers then progress to a second round, submitting physical prints for final consideration. The judging process is anonymous and merit-based, ensuring fairness and a strong focus on artistic quality, technical skill, and emotional impact. The definition of portraiture is intentionally broad, encouraging photographers to interpret the genre creatively while maintaining a focus on portraying individuals and their identities.

Successful entries are exhibited as part of a major public exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, with the possibility of touring to additional venues, offering significant exposure to a wide audience. The prize not only celebrates excellence in portrait photography but also helps elevate artists' careers through media coverage, publication opportunities, and connections with collectors and institutions. With its combination of artistic prestige, financial rewards, and global visibility, the Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize remains a leading platform for contemporary portrait photographers worldwide.

Each entry costs £22 and the maximum number of entries per artist is 6.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to photographers worldwide aged 18 or over on 1 January 2026, excluding previous first prize winners since 2008 and employees of the National Portrait Gallery or sponsors.

PRIZE

The prize offers significant financial awards and career exposure, typically including £15,000 for first prize, £3,000 for second prize, and £2,000 for third prize, alongside the possibility of a paid commission by the National Portrait Gallery. In addition to monetary rewards, selected photographers gain international recognition through exhibition in London and touring venues, inclusion in official publications and promotional materials, and opportunities for future commissions or sales facilitated through the competition's sponsor, enhancing professional visibility and career development.