

Royal Watercolour Society Open 2025

Category: [Illustration](#)

Deadline: January 6, 2025

Website: [graphiccompetitions.com](https://www.graphiccompetitions.com)



The Royal Watercolour Society (RWS) Open 2025, one of the premier global showcases for water-based media, invites artists from all over the world to participate in this prestigious competition. Formerly known as the Contemporary Watercolour Competition, the event highlights the innovative and diverse possibilities of water-based art, embracing not only traditional watercolour techniques but also works created using ink, acrylic, gouache, tempera, and mixed media. With its commitment to celebrating creativity on paper, the RWS Open has become a cornerstone event for both emerging talents and established artists seeking to engage with a broader audience and a discerning community of art enthusiasts.

Artists who submit their work to the RWS Open 2025 will have the chance to exhibit their pieces at the renowned Bankside Gallery, located along London's Thames Path near the iconic Tate Modern. This high-profile exhibition draws thousands of visitors annually, including collectors, curators, and fellow artists, offering participants unparalleled exposure and networking opportunities. In addition to the exhibition, selected works will be featured on the Royal Watercolour Society's official website, expanding their reach to a global online audience. The RWS Open serves as a platform not just to display artwork but also to challenge the boundaries of what can be achieved with water-based media, inspiring both participants and viewers alike.

The competition aims to foster innovation and excellence in water-media art, offering artists an opportunity to gain recognition and accolades. Entrants benefit from the possibility of winning various awards and prizes, including the highly sought-after RWS Young Artist Award. Beyond the accolades, the RWS Open provides a stepping stone for artists to connect with the Royal Watercolour Society's distinguished members, potentially opening doors to mentorships, collaborations, and future exhibitions. By participating in this esteemed competition, artists not only showcase their talent but also contribute to the rich tradition and evolving narrative of watercolour and water-based media in contemporary art.

The entry fee for the RWS Open 2025 is £20 per work, with a discounted rate of £14 per work for artists aged 35 or under.

Eligibility

Artists aged 18 or over, living anywhere, are eligible to submit works completed within the last four years from the deadline date (January 6, 2025). All submitted works must be for sale.

Prize

Participants in the RWS Open 2025 have the opportunity to win various awards, including the RWS Young Artist Award. Selected artworks will be exhibited at Bankside Gallery, located next to Tate Modern on the Thames Path, and featured on the Royal Watercolour Society website for the duration of the exhibition and beyond. Additionally, artists will have the chance to network with RWS members and other exhibiting artists, potentially leading to further opportunities such as membership proposals.
