

The Derwent Art Prize 2026

Category: [Illustration](#)

Deadline: January 13, 2026

Website: graphiccompetitions.com



The Derwent Art Prize is an international art competition dedicated exclusively to celebrating excellence and innovation in contemporary pencil art. Established in 2012 by Derwent, renowned globally for its high-quality drawing materials, the competition attracts emerging and established artists from around the world who specialize in pencil as a primary medium. Participants showcase a diverse range of artworks, from meticulously detailed graphite illustrations and striking colored pencil portraits to experimental and boundary-pushing creations that incorporate graphite, charcoal, pastel, or colored pencils in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional formats.

This renowned competition has become a significant platform for artists aiming to gain international exposure, recognition, and validation for their mastery of pencil techniques. Each edition culminates in a high-profile exhibition, held at prestigious venues such as the gallery@OXO in London, providing artists with a unique opportunity to exhibit their works to collectors, curators, art critics, and the general public. The exhibition not only celebrates individual artistic excellence but also fosters connections and collaboration within the international artistic community, encouraging dialogue and exploration around the possibilities of pencil as an expressive medium.

Beyond showcasing exceptional artistic talent, the Derwent Art Prize serves as a catalyst for innovation, continuously redefining contemporary pencil artistry. By highlighting both traditional craftsmanship and contemporary creativity, the prize promotes the enduring relevance and versatility of pencils in modern art practice. Its commitment to fostering talent across generations is demonstrated through specific categories like the Young Artist Awards and Educator's Award, nurturing artistic growth and inspiring future generations of pencil artists to continue exploring and expanding the medium's boundaries.

The entry fee is £15 for the first work and £5 for each additional work.

Eligibility

The competition is open to artists aged 18 or over as of 1 January 2026, submitting original works created in pencil up to 182 cm in any dimension.

Prize

The total prize fund is £13,500, with awards including First Prize (£4,000 plus a year's supply of Derwent products), Second Prize (£2,000), two Young Artist Awards (under 25s) totalling £6,000, plus the People's Choice Award (£500), New Artist Award (£500), Educator's Award (£500), and a tin of Derwent Lightfast Pencils for each winner.
