

DAF26: Visible Invisible Plein Air Open

Terms & Conditions

1. Event Overview

The DAF26 Visible Invisible Plein Air Open is a one-day art event and competition taking place on **Sunday 28th June**. Artists are invited to capture the spirit of Didsbury Village in the open air.

This year's festival theme, "**Visible Invisible**," challenges us to look deeper into our surroundings. In the hustle and bustle of Didsbury, what do we usually take for granted or often miss?

- Is it the **Visible** - the iconic clock tower, the vibrant shopfronts, and the crowded cafe terraces?
- Or is it the **Invisible** - the shadow of a leafy canopy on a brick wall, the hidden alleyways, the layers of history in our architecture, or the quiet moments of connection between strangers?

We want to see how you interpret the seen and the unseen through your art. Whether you paint the grand landmarks or draw the tiny, overlooked details, come help us make the spirit of Didsbury visible.

All work must be started and completed on the day within the specified timeframes to be eligible for exhibition and prizes.

2. Registration & Eligibility

- **Check-in:** Registration takes place between **9:00 am and 11:00 am** outside **Didsbury Library**.
- **Stamping:** All surfaces (canvas, board, or paper) must be presented blank at registration to be stamped by the organisers. **Only work with an official DAF stamp on the reverse will be eligible for the competition.**
- **Entry Fee:** £5 payable on registration. Free for those aged 10 to 19 years on 31st August 2026.
- **Materials:** All traditional 2D media are welcome (Oil, Acrylic, Watercolour, Pastel, Ink and Pencil). Photography and digital art are excluded from this specific competition.
- **Acknowledgement:** By registering, artists confirm they have read and accept these Terms & Conditions.

3. Competition Rules

- **Location:** Work must be produced outdoors within the Didsbury area.
- **Authenticity:** Work must be painted "from life" on-site. The use of photographic aids or pre-sketched canvases is prohibited. All supports - including stretched canvases,

boards and paper - must be presented in a blank state at registration to be stamped. Pre-toned surfaces (a single solid base colour) are permitted, but no sketching, under-drawing or outlines may be present before the **official start time of 10:00 am**.

- **Submission:** Completed works must be delivered to **Didsbury Baptist Church** between **5:00 pm and 6:00 pm**.
 - *Late entries will not be accepted for judging.*
 - *Work should be "ready to display" (e.g., dry enough to handle; artists are encouraged to bring their own display easel if possible).*

4. Exhibition & Celebration

- All entries will be featured in the **Pop-Up Exhibition** at the **Community Celebration** at Didsbury Baptist Church starting at **7:30 pm**.
- This community event celebrates all Visual Arts highlights of the Didsbury Arts Festival. Artists and their supporters are encouraged to attend to view their art works at the Pop Up Exhibition and for the prize announcements.
- **Sales:** If work is for sale, 20% commission on all sales will go towards supporting community engagement and future Didsbury Arts Festival events. You will be asked to state whether the work is for sale or not when you drop it off and asked to give a price.

5. Health, Safety & Conduct

- **Public Access:** Didsbury is a busy village. Artists must ensure their equipment (easels, stools, bags) does not obstruct public footpaths, shop entrances, drop curbs, disabled access or fire exits. A minimum of **1.5 metres** of pavement must remain clear for pedestrians. Artists are liable for any damage to property resulting from their art work. Artists should be mindful of their chosen location and footfall throughout the day
- **Environment:** Artists must dispose of all waste (including dirty water and paint rags) responsibly. No materials should be poured into public drains.
- **Compliance:** Artists must follow any safety instructions given by Festival Volunteers or Council officials.
- **Weather:** Artists should ensure that they are prepared for the weather. Should extreme weather be forecast, the DAF Festival team will make a decision about rescheduling the Plein Air.
- **Disqualification:** Any serious breach of these Terms & Conditions, including but not limited to the Health, Safety & Conduct rules here, may result in disqualification from the competition at the sole discretion of the Festival Organisers.

6. Liability & Insurance

- **Independent Participation:** The Plein Air Open is a self-directed event. Artists choose their own painting locations within the Didsbury area and work independently throughout the day. The Festival does not direct, supervise, or monitor artists once they leave registration and artists take part at their own discretion and risk.

- **Personal Responsibility:** Artists are responsible for their own safety, wellbeing and decisions throughout the day, including their choice of location, awareness of surroundings, traffic, weather conditions and any permissions needed if painting on private land. Artists are also responsible for their own equipment, material and artwork at all times, throughout the day and during the exhibition.
- **Insurance:** The Didsbury Arts Festival's Public Liability Insurance covers certain specific Festival-run elements, but does not extend to artists' independent activity during the painting period nor to personal property. Artists are encouraged to ensure they have their own appropriate personal and equipment insurance in place.
- **Disclaimer:** The organisers accept no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to artists' equipment or artwork, nor for any personal injury sustained during the event.

7. Judging & Promotion

- The DAF26 Plein Air Prize and the DAF26 Plein Air Young Artist Prize (open to anyone between the ages of 10 and 19 on 31st August 2026) will be adjudicated by renowned urban sketcher, **Simone Ridyard**, and DAF representatives.. Combining professional practice with a passion for plein air, they will select the winners based on technical excellence and a unique response to this year's theme. Their decision is final.
- By entering, the artist grants Didsbury Arts Festival permission to photograph their work and themselves for use in future promotional materials, social media and press releases.

Quick-Reference Artist Schedule:

- **09:00 – 11:00:** Registration & Stamping (Didsbury Library)
- **10:00 – 17:00:** Painting in the Village
- **17:00 – 18:00:** Artwork Submission (Didsbury Baptist Church)
- **19:30:** Exhibition & Celebration Event (Didsbury Baptist Church)
- **20:00 (approx):** Prize Giving Ceremony