

DAF26 Visual Arts Summer Open

For the DAF26 Visual Arts Summer Open we will use a number of local businesses as our "gallery" walls. We hope that this approach will guarantee maximum engagement throughout the festival.

All submissions to the DAF26 Summer Open must be made through our [online form](#).

Please read the following Ts&Cs carefully before completing this form.

Terms and Conditions of Entry

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DAF26 Summer Open Exhibition

Terms and Conditions of Entry

The Didsbury Arts Festival cannot accept responsibility for misunderstandings arising from failure to read the terms and conditions below. Please read the following carefully.

Eligibility

- All **Greater Manchester artists** are eligible to enter, whether amateur, student, semi-professional, graduate, professional or established.
- **All entrants must live in Greater Manchester.**
- Applicants must be age 18 or over.
- We only accept submissions that have been created by the applicant; the work must be your own.
- Artwork(s) submitted must be owned by the artist.
- All submissions must be made via this [online form](#).

Key dates for the DAF26 Summer Open Exhibition

Submissions open	Saturday, 11th April 2026
Submissions close	Friday, 5th June 2026
Artists emailed to confirm participation	Week commencing 8th June 2026
Delivery Day	Wednesday 24th June 2026 to a Didsbury Village location TBC
Exhibition display	Saturday 27th June to Sunday 5th July 2026
Prize Giving Event and Celebration	7.30pm on Sunday, 28th July 2026 at Didsbury Baptist Church
Collection of artwork	Monday 6th July 2026 from a Didsbury Village location TBC

General information

In the spirit of our DAF26 festival theme *Visible Invisible*, we are evolving how we showcase visual art. This year, we are "bringing the Open into the open" by moving the traditional gallery experience into the heart of Didsbury Village for the duration of the festival. The Open will be spread across a number of public venues, encouraging visitors to explore Didsbury to discover the works. This will bring together the Summer Open with the other Visual Arts events within DAF26. We hope it will provide artists with a chance to have work seen in a context that blurs the boundary between art and the everyday.

Art Prize

To celebrate the incredible creative spirit of our community, we are proud to introduce a special £250 Art Prize given in honour of **Cecile Elstein**, a renowned local artist who died in 2025. An acclaimed artist, sculptor and printmaker, Cecile's work is held in collections around the world, marking her as a figure of significant international standing. This award recognises both her lasting legacy in the arts and her longstanding support for Didsbury Arts Festival by reflecting our festival theme and highlighting the exceptional talent of artists living right here in Greater Manchester.

The winner will be chosen by an independent selection panel of art professionals from the works shortlisted for the Open and presented at the **Prize Giving and Plein Air Exhibition at Didsbury Baptist Church on Sunday, 28th June at 7.30pm.**

The prize winners will be selected by an independent selection panel consisting of invited art professionals, curators and practicing artists. The prize judging will be conducted anonymously, with judges viewing only the artwork, its title and medium. The decision of the selection panel regarding all prizes and awards is final.

We are excited to receive your submissions!

Submissions

- **The DAF26 Summer Open Exhibition is open to all residents within the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, and Wigan).**
- All artists **must submit their entries online** via the [Online Form](#).
- You will need access to a computer and the internet, a valid email address, and a digital image of your artwork(s) to submit. **Only high-quality digital image submissions are acceptable.** See 'Images of your work' section of this document below.
- When filling in the online submission form, please note that the name you provide will be the name printed in the exhibition notes. **If you have an 'artist name' that is different from the name on your bank account, please let the organisers know.** We need to know this in order for you to be paid promptly if you sell your work(s) in the exhibition, once the purchaser has paid in full.
- **The Didsbury Arts Festival can accept no liability for loss of or damage to works submitted for exhibition.** You are advised to arrange your own insurance for

any artwork submissions. DAF staff take every care over work submitted, but we recommend that you avoid submitting works with unprotected surfaces, dangerous protuberances and elaborate frames etc. Works on paper must be framed. For reasons of security, frames should not be less than half an inch wide at the back where hanging attachments can be applied. See 'Framing' section of this document below.

- Up to **3 artworks** will be accepted per artist in **any** 2D media, including print, pencil, paint or photography. Any more than 3 works submitted using the online form will not be considered.
- There is a **non-returnable handling fee of £5 per artwork** being displayed. This is payable on confirmation of acceptance. For artists in full time education or under the age of 19 on 5th July 2026, this handling fee will be **waived**. Please submit a photo of your ID as part of the submission form as evidence.
- Triptychs (artworks made up of 3 parts) / diptych (artworks made up of 2 parts) or multiple-part work can be submitted. You will need to photograph the work as one piece and not submit it online as 2 or 3 separate works. In the 'Further Information' section of the online form, please let us know that your work is a triptych/diptych. If your work is selected for exhibition, please make sure all parts are labelled on the back. A triptych, for example, should be labelled: 1/3, 2/3, and 3/3 so they don't get separated.
- Please ensure that you have given the **size of the artwork in centimetres including its frame** so that we can best determine where it will be hung.
- The organisers will contact you via **email**. It is therefore important that you give a valid email address that you check regularly (including junk mail folders). A phone number is also useful if we need to get in contact with you urgently about your work. Please note it is the applicant's responsibility to confirm whether they have been successful in the event that they do not receive an email. **The Didsbury Arts Festival cannot accept responsibility for missing notification emails.**
- Artists will receive a confirmation email once they have submitted an application. Please get in touch if you didn't receive confirmation by email.

Images of your work

- Images of entries must be submitted for consideration via the online form as **digital JPG files only (.jpg)**. Images must be no smaller than **200KB (Kilobyte)** and no larger than **4MB (megabyte)** in size.
- Please submit **1 image only** for each 2D artwork.
- Please ensure your artwork images are of high quality, suitable for display and for use for publicity and social media. Poorly presented images, especially those that are out of focus, badly lit, or pixelated, will affect your chances of success. It is advisable to set your work against a plain background and not to use filters or edit your image using software such as Photoshop beyond the basic resizing of your image for online submission.
- **Each entry will be judged on your image(s) alone.** It is therefore very important to represent your work as best you can. Please do not include a CV or personal information, as it will not be presented to the selectors.
- Do not put your name, title, website, watermarks, or copyright symbols anywhere on the images themselves unless this is actually part of the work you are submitting.

Artwork sales

- If you wish to sell your artwork, please indicate the price in the submission form. If you do not supply a price, it will be presumed that this artwork is not for sale.
- If your artwork is purchased during the exhibition, a coloured dot will be displayed next to your work.
- Payment to artists for works sold during the exhibition will be processed after the exhibition closes. To avoid any unnecessary trips, please contact the organisers directly to check if your work(s) has been sold before coming to collect it.
- Please be aware that if your artwork sells during the exhibition, a member of our team will be in touch by email to request payment details. This will include a request for the full name of the account holder, account number and sort code. This information can only be used to make payments into your account and we will not request any other account information.
- **Commission Rates:**
 - **Artists NOT in full-time education:** If your work is for sale and is sold, the Didsbury Arts Festival will take a 20% commission of the sale price; please therefore price your work accordingly.
 - **Artists in full-time education and/or under the age of 19 on 7th July 2026:** If your work is for sale and is sold, **no commission** will be taken by the Didsbury Arts Festival. Student/Young Artists must provide proof of full-time education or age (e.g. a letter from their institution, student ID, etc.).
- **If you submit a framed work, you must sell the work framed as exhibited.**

Delivery and Collection

- The artist is responsible for all transport and associated costs to and from locations **TBC in Didsbury Village.**
- We will accept delivery of your work by another individual providing you contact us in advance with the name of the nominated person and that they deliver/collect on the allocated date. Please make sure the named person delivering/collecting the work on your behalf brings with them proof of ID such as a driving licence or the original acceptance email for the artwork.
- Methods of hanging will depend on the venue your work is hung in. Please see the notes on Framing below.
- If your work is selected for the exhibition, you need to label the back of each entry clearly with your name, title and price of the work or labelled Not For Sale. This information should match that given on your submission form. **Please also indicate on the back of the work if it should be considered for the "no commission for artists in full-time education" category (proof of enrollment will be required).**
- Artwork(s) must be delivered and collected (if not sold) on the specific dates we provide. As DAF has limited storage facilities, we may dispose of any uncollected work after the collection date, on the assumption that it is no longer required by you.
- All selected works will be displayed as part of DAF26 from **Saturday, 27th June to Sunday, 5th July inclusive.** You will not be able to collect or remove your artwork until the designated collection period, providing it hasn't been sold.

Restrictions

- Artists must make online submissions ONLY. We do not accept postal or any other form of entry.
- Only submit work via the online form that will be available to deliver to Didsbury Library on the drop-off date of **24th June 2026** and which is also available for display up to and including the exhibition dates and de-install period (see Key Dates section at the bottom of this document for further details). Your work must be available for these dates; otherwise, your work will not be included in the exhibition. Works may not be removed from the exhibition before **Monday 6th July 2026**.
- Do not direct us to any personal website, file-transfer or file-sharing resources to support your application. **All information relating to your submission must be made on the online submission form.**
- Any submissions considered a conservation, health and safety risk, or likely to cause any public offence will not be accepted; the Didsbury Arts Festival will make the final decision in the event of dispute.
- Artworks comprising live organic matter such as cut flowers and foliage and/or food stuffs **will not be permitted in the exhibition under any circumstances.**
- None of the cosmetic or structural fabric of any of the venues used for this Open may be damaged as a result of installing or exhibiting your work. We reserve the right to protect our walls, doors and floors if the work poses a risk to them.
- Please note **ONLY 2D work** will be considered for the DAF26 VAOE.

Selection Process

- The exhibition is chosen by an independent selection panel who will select the artworks. All submissions and images will be presented anonymously to the selection panel. The selectors see an image of each artwork with the title, medium, and size only. Each submission will be viewed digitally via a screen, so it is vital that the quality of images reflects the work accurately and as professionally as possible.
- Due to the volume of entries, we apologise that it is impossible to give individual feedback or a critique on unselected work. As with any judged 'open submission' exhibition, it is possible that your work may not be selected. We understand that this may come as a disappointment, but it is important to realise that this is the competitive nature of this popular exhibition. We only have a finite amount of temporary exhibition space; the number of incredibly talented individuals who apply outnumbers the amount of work we are able to display. The organisers are unable to enter into a discussion with individual artists about the reasons their work(s) has not been selected. **The decision of the selection panel is final.**
- No personal data, including name, age, gender, or education/experience, will be given during the selection process.
- All artists will be notified of the selector's decision by email in the **week commencing 8th June 2026** by email.
- All selected works will automatically be shortlisted for the Art Prizes.

Framing

- It is essential that each work exhibited at the DAF26 Open has **suitable fixings on the back to attach strings for hanging (e.g., D-rings or screw eyes)**. These fixings should be securely attached and positioned so the artwork hangs correctly.
- Unframed canvases on stretchers: If you wish your artwork to be hung directly by string, this must also have suitable fixings attached to the back of the work. **Other artworks must be framed.**
- We cannot accept glass or Perspex with unprotected edges clipped to hardboard, such as clip frames, or any other type of plastic or metal frame that cannot accommodate hanging fixings.
- Please make sure all fixings are already attached to the work **before** delivery.
- If your work is selected for the exhibition and the frame doesn't meet the requirements when delivered, it will **not** be accepted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions via [this online form](#).