

BLOOMSBURY FESTIVAL



17 - 19 OCTOBER 2025
01 - 31 OCTOBER 2026



Celebrating Creativity in Bloomsbury - 20 Years in 2026

New Wave 2025 Art Competition

PRIZE – EXHIBITION OF YOUR WORK AT THE FESTIVAL PLUS £300 CASH PRIZE

A competition for emerging professional artists to submit a new artwork (or series of artworks) which should respond to the following theme:

The Paths we Tread - This theme has been inspired by a project we have ongoing which explores the people and history of Bloomsbury. You are free to respond to the theme however you wish

Your submission may be a completely new work, a recently completed work, or an artwork you are currently creating as part of art studies. We welcome submissions of more than one artwork if relevant. We invite artworks on paper, canvas or other **2D media** including painting and photography.

The competition is open to current undergraduate or postgraduate students of any age on Fine Art and related courses at London universities, colleges; or other training schemes for professional artists. The winner will be offered a unique opportunity to hold their own exhibition in the Gallery at [City Lit](#) as part of the Bloomsbury Festival 2025 (15th - 29th October 2025) and a cash prize of £300. The gallery exhibition can be a display of additional works that respond to the theme or are other examples of your work.

The winning artist will be selected by a panel of experts, professional artists, and influential festival partners, including the Duchess of Bedford, the Director of Bloomsbury Festival and the Head of School, Visual Arts at City Lit.

THE WINNING ARTWORK AND PRIZE

- The winning artwork will be displayed as part of a solo exhibition throughout the Festival (or if joint winners as part of a small group exhibition)
- There is a cash prize of £300 for the winning artist.
- The exhibition will be listed in the Bloomsbury Festival brochure and online.
- The winning artwork will be themed *The Paths We Tread* and the additional exhibited artworks may be on that theme or other artworks you have completed.

- A press release citing the winner of the competition will be published alongside a news feature on the Bloomsbury Festival website.
- The winner may organise their own private view with the support of the festival team.
- The winner will receive an invitation to festival events.

Runners up

Runners up will receive an invitation to the festival launch and events. Please note it is occasionally decided by the panel to share the winning prize between two artists. In this case the two artists will each receive £300 prize but will share the same gallery space.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should be

- 18 years old or over.
- Degree level or higher level students of London Fine Art or related art courses – including professional development courses for adult artists of any age, based in London.
- Artists aspiring to start a professional career (or refocus an existing career through specialist study)

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

- Artworks on paper, canvas or other 2D exhibition materials are eligible including painting and photography.
- Please submit an electronic version of your artwork such as a scan or photo of either the completed artwork, or a detailed proposal for an artwork and at least one other example of your work.
- Please include a written or video/audio description of how your submitted work responds to the theme.
- If submitting a proposal rather than a completed work you should also include a selection of previously completed artwork images.
- If submitting a completed artwork, it is also helpful to send other related completed artwork you might like to exhibit.
- Please include images of your entry, and any associated artwork or mock-ups. It is also helpful to include some brief explanatory text about your artistic work generally and technical details– materials, sizes, display options, short written description.
- The winning proposal will require the final artworks to be completed by the end of September 2025 and installed in the gallery space by the artist on 15 October 2025 and removed on 29 October 2025.
- The festival may use images in all publicity materials.
- When sending entries, please include your name, phone number, institution, course and year of study in your email.
- The winner will be contacted by email in the first instance in May 2025, to be followed by an online announcement.
- By entering this competition, you are agreeing to have your name and details used in a press release and online.
- **Artwork proposals should be submitted electronically as a hi-res PDF, alongside supporting information to:**
submissions@bloomsburyfestival.org.uk by 6pm on Thursday 8 May 2025

Bloomsbury Festival

For hundreds of years Bloomsbury has been a catalyst for ideas that have impacted across the world. The Festival celebrates contemporary Bloomsbury; a hotbed of creativity and pioneering development with one of the youngest and most diverse populations in the country. Bloomsbury's strength lies in its vibrant diversity. Famous for its globally renowned academic and cultural institutions, it also includes areas of multiple deprivation, and it is home to 11,000 residents. The Festival is uniquely placed in relationship to residential communities, local institutions and businesses, and the UK arts infrastructure, and works across all three, uniting specialists with residents from all backgrounds and of all ages in an equal exchange of skills and experience

Bloomsbury Festival is aimed at a mixed-age audience from across London. A large proportion of the programme is aimed at adults, but there is also an important strand of family focused events and activities. Artworks submitted should be suitable for viewing by a general festival/gallery audience.

www.bloomsburyfestival.org.uk