

South Downs Open 2026
10 October 2026 - 13 March 2027
Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery is an independent museum and art gallery situated in the heart of the South Downs National Park. Following the success of our first South Downs Open in 2024, we are excited to launch the second South Downs Open, which will open in October 2026.

Theme:

South Downs Open 2026, invites submissions of artwork that respond to the South Downs as inspiration. You do not need to live or work in the region, but we do ask that the work you submit connects in some way to the South Downs, whether that is its landscape, its history, the experience of living or working in the region, memories of visits, or how it inspires you.

Categories and Fee:

- **Over 18**
 - £10 per work
 - This fee is non-refundable whether your submission is selected for display or not.
- **Under 18**
 - FREE

Open to All:

South Downs Open 2026 is open to all. You can submit up to two paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles, or photographs. Up to 75 items will be selected to go on display in our award-winning galleries at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery.

Panel:

Sara Lee Artist and winner of the South Downs Open 2024.

Andrew Plaistowe Contestant on The Great Pottery Throw Down (2026)

Louise Weller Head of Collections and Exhibitions at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

Selection:

Artists can submit up to 2 artworks. They make sure you read the section on Size and Display Requirements and Frames and Fixings. All submitted works will be considered by the panel based on the image supplied by the artist with their Application Form.

Terms & Conditions

How to get an Application Form

Once you have paid the submission fee, a link will be sent to you via email where you can download the Application Form.

Over 18 submission fee can be paid through Digitickets or in-person at our Welcome Desk.

Under 18 submission is FREE but booking must still be made through Digitickets or in-person at our Welcome Desk in order to be sent the link.

All submitted artwork must remain at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery for the complete run of the exhibition.

Non-UK Applicants

Our open submission exhibitions are open to artists in the UK, EU, and outside the EU.

Artists who are not resident in the UK but are resident in the EU, if your work is sold at the South Downs Open, you have a responsibility to register and account for UK VAT with H.M. Revenue & Customs. Artists without a UK residence (known as 'NETPs' - non-established taxable persons) can find further details on 'NETP' status and how to register for VAT at www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Size and Display Requirements

The South Downs Open is open to paintings, drawings, prints, textiles, sculpture, ceramics, and photographs. All printmaking techniques are eligible (woodcut, lithograph, etching, screen print and digital). Digital prints are eligible if it is clear to the selectors that they are original artworks created through digital technology and not reproductions of an original work.

For two-dimensional work, there is a size restriction.

Work should not exceed 75 cm in either height or width, including frame.

For sculpture, ceramics and 3D textile works, there is a size restriction:

Maximum floor/plinth space is 30 x 30 cm.

Sculpture must not weigh more than 30kg and must be easily portable.

Artists should provide display instructions where necessary.

Artists should consider the health and safety implications of exhibiting in a public space.

Where an artwork is deemed to be a health and safety risk, Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery reserves the right not to display it. The artist will be contacted immediately to arrange the collection of the work.

Frames and Fixings

All work should be ready for display.

All framed works will be hung with mirror plates, so works must be suitably framed.

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery will attach its own fixings for display. These will be removed at the end of the exhibition.

Metal frames and clip frames are not acceptable.

Box canvases are acceptable provided they have a wooden stretcher strong enough to take the museum's fixings.

Three-dimensional work will be in display cases or on open display. Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery will provide all necessary plinths.

Labelling

Labels will be printed from the information provided on the Application.

When delivering the work, labels must be securely fixed to the work to ensure identification.

The artist's name, address, contact number, email address and artwork's title should be marked clearly on the back of 2D works or on a label attached to 3D works.

The top of abstract works should also be clearly indicated.

Key Dates

Friday 6 February - Friday 28 August 2026	Open for Submissions
Friday 28 August 2026 by 5pm	Application Submission Deadline
Tuesday 1 September 2026	Judges consider online applications and make shortlist
Friday 4 September 2026	Shortlisted artists notified by email
Monday 28 September 2026	Delivery of work to Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery
Tuesday 29 September 2026	Delivery of work to Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery
Friday 9 October 2026 (6 - 8 pm)	Evening Event for participating artists
Saturday 10 October 2026	Exhibition opens
Saturday 13 March 2027	Exhibition closes
Wednesday 17 March 2027	Collection of unsold works from Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery
Thursday 18 March 2027	Collection of unsold works from Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

Submitting Works

All submissions should be made via email to: southdownsopen@petersfieldmuseum.co.uk

If you do not have access to a computer please contact the Museum and Art Gallery

Copies of the Application Forms are available at the Welcome Desk

Once completed, these can be either handed in or posted to arriving by Friday 28 August 2026 by 5pm.

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

St Peter's Road,

Petersfield,

GU32 3HX

01730 262601

Entries are checked manually, if there is a problem with your submission, we will contact you by email or telephone if provided. If everything is complete, you will receive an email notification. Please be patient. This may take a while, but we value the time you have taken to make your submission and we will be in touch.

Notification Of Successful Entries

If your work is selected, we will be in contact by 4 September 2026.

If you do not have access to a computer, you will be contacted by telephone if provided.

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery will publish the list of exhibiting artists on their website on Monday 7 September 2026.

Delivery

Works must be delivered to Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery on Monday, 28 September and Tuesday, 29 September 2026, as agreed in the confirmation email.

Limited parking on site

Please note there is limited parking at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery.

Artists are responsible for the transport of their work(s).

Sale of Work

All works in the Over 18 category must be for sale.

The price stated on the Over 18 Application Form is the artist's price.

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery will add 35% commission and VAT to the artist's price.

Artists will be informed of any sales via email.

Payment for any works sold will be on submission of an invoice by the artist. Invoices must be submitted within 1 month of the exhibition's end. Invoices will be paid on a 30-day terms.

Payment to the bank details given on the invoice.

Sold artwork will be collected from Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery at the end of the exhibition. This will be arranged by Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery.

All unsold work must be collected by the artist at the end of the exhibition.

Collection

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery will not cover any costs relating to transport or the return of work (including postage and packing).

Dates for collection

Unsold work must be collected from Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery on Wednesday 17 or Thursday 18 March 2027, as agreed in the confirmation email.

To collect your work, please bring some form of ID.

If a third party is collecting, they must bring that ID or a letter stating they have permission to remove the work on the artist's behalf.

Late collection

Works not collected on the above dates will incur a storage charge of £15 per work per week. This must be paid before the work can be collected (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the curator)

Copyright

Copyright of the work remains with the artist. However, by submitting the Application Form, the artist agrees that images of their work can be used for the promotion of Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery and the South Downs Open.

Insurance

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery will take all reasonable care in handling and safeguarding works submitted. Petersfield Museum and Art Galleries are used for various purposes. Work is submitted at the artist's own risk and it is strongly recommended that artists make their own insurance arrangements.

Personal Data

Please see our website for Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery's Privacy Policy.

Disqualification

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery reserves the right to disqualify any work if the artist has failed to adhere to the Terms and Conditions as set out.

Completing and submitting the Application Form is to be taken as the unreserved agreement of the entire contents of the terms and conditions .