

Photographing your work

A quick guide to help you photograph your artwork clearly and professionally, so it looks its best during the judging process.

Why do I need to photograph my work?

The photographs you submit are what the judges will use to decide whether your artwork is selected for the exhibition. As we aren't able to view every piece in person, clear and accurate images are essential. Blurry photos, harsh reflections, or distracting shadows can make it difficult to assess your work fairly, so it's important to provide the best possible image.

What sort of camera do I need?

You don't need an expensive or professional camera — a mobile phone will do, as long as it can handle different lighting conditions and you can keep it steady while taking the photo.

What do I need to think about before taking a photograph?

Think carefully about your lighting. Indoor lights often give off a yellow tone, which can distort the colours of your work. Wherever possible, photograph your artwork in natural daylight — an overcast day is ideal, as it provides soft, even lighting without harsh shadows or colour shifts. To avoid blur, keep your camera as steady as possible — using a tripod or another stable surface can really help.

What size image should my image be?

To make sure your image is clear enough for judging, it should be at least 1000 pixels and no more than 3000 pixels on its longest side. The file size must not exceed 5MB.

How do I photograph my work?

Here are a few tips to help you capture the best possible image of your artwork. These apply to both 2D and 3D works:

- Hold the camera parallel to your artwork to avoid distortion.

- Don't hold the camera too close — this can cause the image to bow. Instead, step back slightly and zoom in if needed.
- Avoid reflections, as these can distort the image and make details hard to see.
- Make sure the camera is properly focused. A blurry photo makes it difficult for the judges to assess your work fairly.
- Try to include the entire artwork in the frame, with a little space around the edges. Don't worry about cropping — you can do this after you've taken the photo.

Do I need to edit the image before sending it?

You may wish to crop your image before submitting it. There are two main approaches:

1. Crop to include some background – This works well if the background is plain and doesn't distract from the artwork.
2. Crop to remove the background entirely – This is ideal if the background is cluttered or distracting.

When taking the photo, try to align the edges of the artwork with the frame of your camera or phone screen. This helps avoid distortion and keeps the image straight.

Avoid adjusting the colours, as this can misrepresent your artwork. Please do not add watermarks or copyright text — these can obscure important details in the image.

Is there any more information?

If you would like more tips and advice, check out these short videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vpj28da03JQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKgWlzym3Hs>



Latest updates and resources via the website:

www.leicestermuseums.org/the-open

Any questions email: **openexhibition@leicester.gov.uk**

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