

New Contemporaries Large Print Submission Guidelines

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Overview

We welcome submissions from UK-based emerging or early career artists (aged 21 or above, with no upper age limit) who are within the first 7 years of their professional practice.

Submissions should be uploaded via our submissions website which will open between 3 March 2025 (10am) and 31 March 2025 (2pm) GMT and can be accessed here:

submissions.newcontemporaries.org.uk

Accessibility

We are happy to assist artists who identify as having access needs with the application process. Please contact us at access@newcontemporaries.org.uk

A step-by-step video on uploading your submission, can be found on our website here:

newcontemporaries.org.uk/submissions/accessibility

Applying for New Contemporaries

We strive to be an organisation that is reflective of the diverse contemporary society we serve. We are keen to hear from artists who are currently underrepresented in the sector due to the experience of barriers linked to ethnicity, class, disability, gender and sexuality.

From this year on, the artist's submission will not be anonymised with selectors having access to name, location, and any other information provided by the artist. As a national organisation, we want to be representative of all the UK and are encouraging artists who are based in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales to apply.

We also actively encourage artists and practices that have not been historically represented in our programme to send us their work for consideration.

To apply, works should be submitted through our submission website between 3 March 2025 (10am) and 31 March 2025 (2pm) GMT. There is a £25 submission fee. The fee is non-refundable and is to be paid through PayPal on the submission site. This fee directly funds the artist support programme which includes one-to-one mentoring for each selected artist, a fee for participating in the programme including travel and accommodation, access to a programme of workshops and networking opportunities and access support where required.

Artists must be based in the UK and all works must be available for collection and return from a UK address.

Being selected for our programme includes

- Exhibiting as part of our exhibitions at South London Gallery and MIMA. Selected artists are offered an artist's fee, travel and accommodation costs for the openings of both exhibitions and access support where required.
- Participating in New Contemporaries Artist Support Programme, which includes 1 to 1 mentoring; Peer Networking Sessions; Workshops, Talks and other artist development opportunities.
- Being part of an illustrious alumni that spans over 75 years, including: Rebecca Ackroyd, Frank Auerbach, Frank Bowling, Stuart Brisley, Patrick Caulfield, Helen Chadwick, Monster Chetwynd, Kara Chin, Tacita Dean, Sunil Gupta, Mona Hatoum, Damien Hirst, David Hockney, Derek Jarman, Bruce Lacey, Mark Leckey, Rachel Maclean, Haroon Mirza, Chris Ofili, Hardeep Pandhal, Laure Prouvost, Paula Rego, Maryam Tafakory, Rosa Uddoh Johan, Gillian Wearing, Michaela Yearwood-Dan, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye and many others.

Eligibility

We welcome submissions from UK-based emerging or early career artists who are within the first 7 years of their practice.

You will need to be one of the following:

- An artist who is on their final year, or has graduated from any BA, and is within the first 7 years of commencing their practice;
- An artist who is currently part of, or has graduated from any post graduate programme (MA, MFA, PhD etc.) and is within the first 7 years of commencing their practice;
- An artist who is currently part of or has completed any non-accredited or 'alternative' learning programme, and is within the first 7 years of commencing their practice;
- An artist who has developed a practice independently, or is self-taught, and is within the first 7 years of commencing their practice;
- An artist who has had a break from their practice, but is still within the first 7 years of commencing;
- An artist who came to their practice at a later stage in their life, but is still within the first 7 years of commencing.

Other essential criteria:

- Artists must be based in the UK, including UK nationals and those with the right to work or study here, with a current UK address;
- Aged 21 or above, upon submitting work, with no upper age limit;
- Not have participated in New Contemporaries exhibitions previously;
- Collaborative, Collective or Duo applications are eligible, but this must be clear from the outset of your submission, with all members meeting the other criteria listed here.

We ask artists to self-define themselves as ‘emerging’ or ‘early career’, if they meet the criteria listed here, and would benefit from inclusion in New Contemporaries’ programme. When submitting work, you will be asked to articulate your motivation for applying.

Key Dates

- Submissions will be accepted online between 3 March 2025 (10am) and 31 March 2025 (2pm).
- Artists will be notified whether or not they have been shortlisted by late June 2025.
- Shortlisted artists will be informed as to whether or not they have been selected by late July 2025.
- First exhibition opens in January - April 2026 at [South London Gallery](#)
- Second exhibition opens in May - Autumn 2026 at [MIMA](#)

Preparing and Uploading Your Submission

Uploading Your Personal Details

You will be asked to complete the following fields:

- Artist Name or Duo/Collective Name (all to be eligible);
- Phone Number(s);
- Work Collection Address in the UK;
- In no more than 100 words, how will this opportunity benefit your practice, for example your reason for applying to New Contemporaries.

Submissions Fee

There is a £25 submission fee. The fee is non-refundable and is to be paid through PayPal on the submission site. The fee directly funds the artist support programme which includes one-to-one mentoring for each selected artist, a fee for participating in the

programme including travel and accommodation, access to a programme of workshops and networking opportunities and access support where required.

Uploading Documentation of Your Work

You can upload up to 3 media items/works. You may choose to submit 1 work which includes 3 forms of documentation or 'media items', including images, video and audio files. Or 3 works with 1 media item each.

Select which category below best suits your work and upload appropriate documentation ('media items') as image, video, and/or audio:

- Collage
- Drawing
- Installation
- Moving Image
- Painting
- Participatory
- Performance
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Textile
- Sound
- Writing
- VR
- Web
- Other

Uploading Images

- Images must be JPG, PNG, GIF or SVG, and have a minimum height or width of 800px and no larger than 2MB and be in RGB mode.
- Please ensure that your images are of high quality, well-lit and give a clear reflection of your work.

Uploading Video

- Please upload video directly (this could be moving image work or video documentation) to the submission site in MP4 format only.
- Video files should be no longer than 2 minutes and no larger than 100MB.
- Please edit longer works to a 2-minute excerpt. If you are shortlisted we will view the full work. Please indicate if the video is an extract.

Uploading Audio

- Please upload audio directly to the submission site in MP3 format only.
- Audio files should be no longer than 2 minutes and no larger than 10MB.
- Please ensure the audio is less than 2 minutes long (this could be an extract of the full work, if shortlisted we will ask for the full work, please indicate if the audio is an extract).

Uploading Description

Each work can be accompanied by a description of no more than 40 words, providing information on the materials and themes.

Completing your Submission

You will be invited to complete an optional Equal Opportunity Monitoring and Feedback Form.

Finally, you can view a preview of your full submission. Check and tick the boxes before pressing Submit. Once you submit, no further changes can be made.

You will be then emailed a verification that your submission is completed.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do you require for my application?

You can submit up to 3 works per application, presented as images, video or audio. We also ask for a short, written statement about the work. You will be asked to provide us with a written statement telling us how the opportunity would benefit your practice

If you are shortlisted, we will ask for further information including additional documentation, full versions of any moving image or sound works, and an extended work statement with more information about the work eg. its themes, processes or materials.

What works should I apply with?

All media, styles and approaches are considered, the exhibition is not selected thematically. There is no limit on the scale of your work, but please note that this is a group exhibition. Works should be completed rather than works in progress, and there is no criteria to when the work should have been made/completed.

We would also like to see performance or participatory works. We also actively encourage artists and practices that have not been historically represented in our programme to send us their work for consideration.

Unfortunately, we cannot enter into any discussion regarding advice about particularities of artwork. We would advise that you discuss with your peers or tutors about making the strongest and most impactful application possible.

Where does the submission fee go?

The fee directly funds our artist support programme which includes one-to-one mentoring for each selected artist, a fee for participating in the programme including travel and accommodation to the exhibition openings, access to a programme of workshops and networking opportunities and access support where required.

What is the selection process?

From the work submitted, a jury of three independent artists is invited to shortlist approximately 100 artists. The shortlisted artists are then asked to provide more information about their work and practice for stage two of the selection process. The final list of artists is selected by the jury for the exhibition. On average 25-30 artists will be selected.

Where are the exhibitions this year and how are they organised?

- First exhibition opens in January - April 2026 at South London Gallery
- Second exhibition opens in May - Autumn 2026 at MIMA

New Contemporaries' curatorial team works with our exhibition partners to curate each exhibition. Works will need to be available for collection and return in the UK and for the full length of the exhibition tour. Artists are usually not required for the installation, only by invitation from the organisers. We also work with our partners to present performance or participatory practices and an accompanying artist support programme and public programme.

Why was my application not successful?

We receive an incredibly large number of submissions, with a very high standard of work submitted, so please do not be disheartened if you were not selected this time. This is not a reflection on the quality of your work but on the interests of this year's selectors. It is important that we work with different selectors each year who represent a wide range of practices, interests and positions. We hope that, if you are eligible, you will apply again in the future. We would love to be able to provide feedback to individual artists but, because of the volume of submissions, unfortunately this will not be possible.

Terms and Conditions

Work submitted should be completed (not works in progress) and must be your own, and you must hold all moral and intellectual property rights to that work.

Only works selected for exhibition will be covered by ours and our exhibition partners insurance.

All selected works need to be available one month prior to the opening of the first exhibition and to the close of the final exhibition. If works need to be released from our storage other than for the exhibition this will be at your expense.

New Contemporaries will manage all sales of selected work during the exhibition period. New Contemporaries will take a commission of 50% of the agreed sale price. Works do not have to be available for sale, and we can provide guidance around pricing your work.

New Contemporaries is registered under the Data Protection Act 1988. Your details will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties.

Videos uploaded and embedded on our submission site are hosted by Vimeo, and are not publicly visible.

The decision of the selectors and New Contemporaries is final and we cannot enter into further discussion about the selection. Unfortunately, due to the volume, we cannot offer any feedback on submitted applications.

If an applicant is found to be ineligible, or their submission is not shortlisted or selected the entry fee will not be refunded. Regrettably duplicate payments, incomplete applications or applications that are not submitted before the deadline cannot be refunded.

Contact us

If you have any further questions not answered here, or experience problems with the online submissions during the application period, please contact submissions@newcontemporaries.org.uk within 5 working days of the submission deadline.