



## Art History Festival 2026 – Call for Events

Monday 5 October – Sunday 11 October 2026

*We welcome events of all kinds, on any art-historical theme, for audiences of all ages*

The Art History Festival returns in 2026, celebrating the full spectrum of art history — including the histories of art, architecture and design — in all their richness across periods, places, artists, movements, materials, and methods. Whether you're offering a deep dive with a curator, a behind-the-scenes demonstration, a hands-on workshop, or something wonderfully unexpected, we'd love to hear from you.

We are committed to an inclusive Festival in which a wider range of people see themselves reflected and feel invited to take part. We invite programming that is representative, accessible, and welcoming, shaped by varied backgrounds, perspectives, and lived experiences.

The 2026 Festival is open in scope, inviting partners to explore any area of art, architecture, or design that inspires them. We're also offering two optional areas that partners can draw on when developing events. These are simply prompts for inspiration—there is absolutely no obligation to follow them.

### **Events for young people (13–18 years)**

As part of our mission to inspire a lifelong interest in art, architecture, design and art history, we invite sessions designed for teens and/or for the adults in their lives. This is an invitation, not a limitation: we welcome and value events for all audiences, and events for adults and families are equally encouraged and warmly welcomed.

We're open to **all styles of youth programming**:

- High-energy sessions that tap into pop culture, memes, music videos, street art and current debates.
- Slower, more reflective encounters that create space for looking closely, thinking deeply, or exploring big ideas
- Creative challenges, interactive mysteries, social-justice dialogues — anything that helps young audiences feel that art history is alive, relevant, and theirs to explore.

### **Events on Making & Materials**

If your organisation prefers to work to a theme, we are suggesting 'making and materials'. This could include contributions that explore how artworks are made, from the tools and techniques artists use to the materials and processes behind their creation.

We welcome:

- Process-focused talks and material explorations
- Behind the scenes - conservation insights and studio or workshop demonstrations
- Stories that reveal the science, sweat and skill of making

The above two recommendations are **entirely optional** — offered as a prompt for partners who enjoy working with a shared focus.

## Festival Reach

The 2025 Festival drew over 43,000 attendees. There were 137 listings from 117 partners across the UK and beyond. The programme is here: [Art History Festival 2025](#)

Partnering organisations promote the Festival to their networks/audiences via social media, newsletters, listings, websites, etc. The Association also promotes the Festival centrally. In 2025, the Festival reached over 500,000 people across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and the press.

### An indicative list of participants for the event includes the following organisations:

Albion Millennium Green	Esea Contemporary	Manchester International Festival	Scottish Society for Art History
Alfred Cohen Museum	Estorick Collection	MIMA	Sheffield Museums Trust
Amalia Pica	Fallingwater, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	Mitchell Library	Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery
Art Laughs	Farfield Mill	Munnings Art Museum	Shropshire Museums & Archives
Art UK	Fitzwilliam Museum	Museum of the Home	Sotheby's Institute of Art, London
Artiq	Gaelle Moore	National Galleries of Scotland	St Mary's University
Arts Society	Galerie Betty Charles	National Gallery of Art, DC	TAFETA
Ashmolean	Gibberd Gallery	National Museums Liverpool	Tate Britain
Athena Art Foundation	Glasgow Museums Resource Centre	New Art Gallery, Walsall	The Arts Society Knole
Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art	Goldsmith's College	Newcastle University	The Bluecoat
Bethlem Museum of the Mind	Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery	Newry and Mourne Museum	The Box
Birkbeck College, Peltz Gallery	Guildhall Art Gallery, City of London Corporation	Norfolk and Norwich Art Circle	The Burrell Collection
Bloomsbury Publishing	Harlow Art Trust	Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum	The Courtauld Institute of Art
British Museum	Hatton Gallery, North East Museums	Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery	The Garden Museum

Castlefield Gallery	HENI	Nxt Gen	The Museum of English Rural Life
Christie's Education	Hogarth's House	Orleans House Gallery	The National Gallery
City Art Centre Edinburgh	Hundred Heroines Museum	Pangolin London	University College London
City Lit	Imperial War Museum	Pannett Art Gallery	University of Dundee Museums
Civic Square	Just FACT	Pensychnant Foundation	University of Leeds
Culture Perth and Kinross	Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum	Perth Art Gallery	University of Reading Art Collection
Cyfarthfa Castle and Museum	Kettle's Yard	Pier Arts Centre, Orkney	V&A Academy
De La Warr Pavilion	Larne Museum & Arts Centre	Pigfoot Theatre	Vincent and Frida Ltd
Deptford People's Heritage Museum	Leeds Art Gallery	Portraits of Recovery	Walker Art Gallery
Design Museum London	Leighton House Museum	Randle Centre	Wallace Collection
Dovecot Studios	Lillie Art Gallery	Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery	Warburg Institute
Down County Museum	Linklaters	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	Watts Gallery
Dumfries Museum	London Borough of Richmond Arts Service	RWA Art Gallery	Whitechapel Gallery
East Dunbartonshire Leisure & Culture Trust	London Fieldworks	School of Advanced Study, University of London	Whitworth Art Gallery
Eco Birmingham	Midlands Arts Centre	Science Museum	William Morris Society