

AA2A 30th anniversary exhibition in partnership with the University of Chester

16 July – 13 August 2026

Artist Call

Overview

Led by the University of Chester in partnership with AA2A, this exhibition brings together artists who have participated in AA2A residencies across the programme's history, exhibiting work alongside one another. Presented as part of the University's CASC Gallery programme, the exhibition also celebrates AA2A's 30th anniversary, marking three decades of connecting professional artists with universities and colleges to support experiential learning, creative exchange and dialogue with students. Current and former AA2A artists are invited to submit work for consideration.

Venue

[CASC – Contemporary Art Space Chester](#)

Location

University of Chester, Creative Campus Kingsway, Kingsway, Chester, CH2 2LB

About the Gallery

Contemporary Art Space Chester [**CASC**] is the operational name for a range of pop-up and permanent exhibition spaces in and around the University of Chester and the city of Chester. Operating out of the University of Chester's Creative Campus Kingsway, the principal purpose of CASC is to provide a platform for students and staff from the Division of Art, Design and Innovation at the to showcase their work and test their research, to support Alumni in extending their practice beyond university and to provide an accessible point of entry for the work of contemporary artists, photographers and designers from across the country.

The School for the Creative Industries, through CASC, have developed an active environment that is making a significant contribution to the cultural life of the city of Chester, alongside its students and staff, boasting an impressive exhibition archive spanning over 15 years.

Access

The CASC gallery is located at the rear of Creative Campus Kingsway and adjacent to a large car park. There are disabled parking spaces within 50 metres of the building with smooth pavements and dropped kerbs to facilitate easy use of mobile aids. Entrance points have low thresholds, wide corridors and doors. There are several accessible toilets near the gallery space. The site is secured by CCTV and on-site security personnel.

Directions & Parking

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/9ni8h1ZfpNUAEHS77>

<https://www.chester.ac.uk/about/our-locations/creative-campus-kingsway-chester/>

Eligibility

- All artists who have completed an AA2A residency during the programme's 30-year history
- Current ACTIVE Student Ambassadors are also eligible to apply as a thank you for supporting the artists and AA2A scheme this year.

Submission Guidelines

2D Works

Painting, drawing, photography, print, textiles & mixed media

Maximum size 1000mm x 1000mm

3D Works

The gallery has a selection of white wooden plinths of different sizes that can be used to display smaller sculptural or installation works (max dims 400 x 400 x 400mm). Bespoke plinths will not be made. Artists are encouraged to transport their own plinths if required and integral to the work.

Sculpture must be robust enough to sit on a plinth. Balanced works that could be subject to damage are not permitted.

The gallery has 2 glass display cases that could be used for delicate work, sharp materials or expensive pieces – measurements upon request.

Larger sculptural work can be free-standing if secure and not dangerous to the public. These works should sit within a floor area of 1500mm x 1500mm and not exceed 2000mm in height.

Video Works

The gallery has several large 4k resolution TV monitors that could be used to display audio-visual work. Please WE Transfer digital files (.avi / .mp4 / .mov) or post on a USB pen drive to the gallery address. Sound artworks are permitted. Headphones are available.

Submission Requirements

Artists may submit:

- Up to [5] artworks for consideration
- Please note: Following selection approval, a minimum of **one artwork** will be selected per artist.

Please include:

- Artwork images
jpeg or png – 1500px on the longest edge at 72dpi (max 5mb each) - full colour
- An accessible URL link to any digital or video work
- Short artist statement - 150-word limit
Please note: this text may be used as a gallery panel.
- Short biography - 50-word limit

Artwork Information:

For each submission, please provide:

- Title
- Medium
- Dimensions
- Year
- Value (for purposes of sale (if applicable) and insurance)

How to Apply/submit work

Submit applications via the AA2A website

<https://aa2a.org/exhibition-submission-form/>

Applications should follow the form instructions and include all the information as set out in the submission information section above.

Personal data will be processed in accordance with UK GDPR and used solely for the administration of this exhibition and will not be shared beyond the University, AA2A and project partners.

Submission deadline: [11 June 2026 @ 5pm]

Selection Process

The CASC Gallery Committee, below, will be responsible for selecting the work for exhibition.

Bernadine Murray – Jeremy Turner – Chris Millward – Greg Fuller

This process will be supported and in discussion with AA2A management.

The committee will review all complete submissions and select works based on their technical and conceptual quality, the spatial requirements of the gallery and the cohesiveness of the final exhibition. Visually offensive or inappropriate material will not be considered.

Applicants will be notified by email: [18 June 2026 5pm]

Exhibition Timeline

- **Artwork delivery:** 19 June – 3 July 2026
- **Private View:** 16 July 2026, 5-8pm
- **Exhibition dates:** 16 July – 13 August 2026
- **Deinstallation:** 14 August 2026
- **Final collection deadline:** 1 September 2026
(Any work remaining beyond this date will not be stored...)

Shipping & Responsibilities

Artists are responsible for:

- Shipping artwork to the gallery
- Return shipping or collection after the exhibition
- All associated costs including:
 - Packaging
 - Insurance
 - Any additional charges (if applicable)

The University has public liability insurance in place, however each artist must ensure their work is insured for the duration of the exhibition, including transport and delivery.

The gallery does not cover shipping or transportation expenses.

Installation & Presentation Requirements

- All works must be ready to hang or display
- Paintings should be fitted with mirror plates halfway down either side for secure fixing to gallery walls.
- Please make sure that your artwork clearly displays your name and medium and any directions for set up or curation/display.

Sales & Commission

- Artworks can be for sale.
- CASC politely requests a 20% donation of any sales paid through an established digital storefront link hosted by the University of Chester.
- [Payment Link here](#)

Legal & Practical Information

- Liability disclaimer
 - The University may wish to reserve the right to decline or withdraw work that differs materially from the submission, is unsafe, is misdescribed, or becomes unsuitable for display.
 - The University does not accept any responsibility for work that is damaged during transit.
 - All work will be subjected to a health and safety review including a risk assessment prior to the exhibition being opened to the public. Should work not be deemed safe to display, it will not feature in the exhibition.
 - All work must comply with UK law and University policies. The University reserves the right to refuse or remove any work that: is unlawful, or promotes discrimination, harassment, or violence; contains explicit or graphic material unsuitable for a public audience; raises safeguarding concerns or conflicts with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies. All decisions are at the discretion of the University and CASC Gallery Committee.
- Image usage rights

Artists retain copyright in all submitted work. By applying, artists grant the University of Chester and AA2A a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use submitted images for purposes of promotion, documentation, and publicity (including print, website, and social media), with appropriate credit.
- Insurance

The University has public liability insurance in place, however each artist must ensure their work is insured for the duration of the exhibition, including transport and delivery.

Contact:

For questions relating to:

AA2A: Mags McLeary mags@aa2a.org

The gallery, installation and deinstallation: Chris Millward c.millward@chester.ac.uk