



## **IN OUR NATURE**

23 May - 11 June 2025

Durlston Country Park

### **Dorset Visual Arts Open Exhibition**

An Open Call to DVA Member artists

### **Full Details, Guidelines, Entry Terms & Conditions**

Following on from the success of the exhibition 'The Instinct of Hope' for Dorset Art Weeks 2024, Dorset Visual Arts announces another open call exclusively for all DVA Members for a nature and ecology-themed exhibition.

As part of the 2025 DVAtions programme, 'IN OUR NATURE' invites submissions from Dorset Visual Arts Members making work in, of or about Dorset's natural environment, landscape and unique biodiversity. The exhibition will be shown in the Fine Foundation Gallery at Durlston Country Park from Friday 23rd May until Wednesday 11th June 2025. Works will be chosen by specially selected judges and curated by DVA.

Artists are free to interpret the subject 'In Our Nature' as the theme. For example:-

- You are directly responding to Dorset's natural environment, ecology and habitats in your work.
- You embed themes and ideas around place, location, residency and belonging in your practice and subject matter - this could embrace portraiture and a sense of 'being in Dorset'.
- You are thinking about the Climate Emergency and making your practice more sustainable - not only in subject matter but in use of materials. Have you adapted your practice to focus on sustainability?

Dorset Visual Arts and Dorset Council have declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency with Culture Declares. Conversations and action around ecology, climate and sustainable living are central to DVA's aims and mission.

DVA wants to enable its Members, communities and arts audiences to engage in a positive dialogue around the issues and challenges for a more sustainable Dorset and to help better understand and protect our natural environment.

**Exhibition Location:** The Fine Foundation Gallery, Durlston Country Park, Lighthouse Road, Swanage BH19 2JL

**Exhibition Type:** Gallery

**Entry Deadline:** Friday 28th March, 5pm

**Exhibition Contact:** Polly Hobbs [hello@dorsetvisualarts.org](mailto:hello@dorsetvisualarts.org)

## Key Dates

**Online entry opens:** Monday 17th February, 12pm

**Online entry closes:** Friday 28th March, 5pm

**Selection day:** Tuesday 8th April

**Notification of selected works:** Friday 11th April

**Handing in day:** Wednesday 21st May, 11am - 3pm

**Exhibition Opens:** Friday 23rd May, 10.30am

**Private View/Gathering:** Thursday 29th May, tbc

**Exhibition Ends:** Wednesday 11th June, 4.30pm

**Collection of unsold work:** Thursday 12th June, 11am - 3pm

## Entry Terms

You must have current DVA Membership to submit work.

Entry is only open to Dorset Visual Arts Members.

Maximum Artwork Entries: 2

**Selected artists will be required to help invigilate and do one 3 hour sitting per week, or one full day. Opening hours are 10.30am - 4.30pm. Agreement to this is a condition of selection.**

## Submissions

- Artists may submit up to TWO pieces of work.
- Works must relate to the spirit of the theme 'IN OUR NATURE' and artists will be asked to provide a short statement (no more than 100 words) to explain how their work does this, along with their images.
- We welcome a variety of art forms and approaches, traditional and contemporary, conceptual and installation.
- Artists are encouraged to submit recent work (produced in the last 3 years).
- 2D works must not exceed 80cm along the longest dimension, (including frame if appropriate).
- Where the artwork is an edition we can only sell the one edition on display.
- A limited amount of larger 2D works (exceeding 80cm) will be considered to hang on the large stone wall in the gallery.
- A limited number of places are available for 3D works, including free standing pieces no taller than 2 metres. There is no minimum size.
- Smaller 3D work should be stable and suitable to display on the gallery plinths.
- We cannot accept video or performance work.
- Exhibits must be original.
- There is no ceiling on sale prices.
- Prices must include the cost of the frame (where appropriate).
- Commission rate is 40% - (50/50 split between DCP and DVA) (Dorset Visual Arts is not VAT registered).

- Selected artists are invited to add one piece of work to the browsers at the exhibition. Must not exceed A1 size and should be mounted/backing board, cello wrapped and clearly labelled on the back with your name, title, medium and price. (There is no minimum price on these items).
- Photos of submitted work need to be in jpeg or png format, be no more than 5mb file size and should not include the frame. Your work will be judged from these photos - please photograph works in natural light and that the image is really clear and totally representative of the artwork.
- Whatever is on the entry form will also appear on your labels and any other exhibition literature (if selected), so please avoid using all capitals, unless essential.
- Please ensure your details are recorded accurately before confirming your application
- Incomplete submissions will not be accepted after 5pm on 28th March 2025, so be sure to finish and submit your entry or email Polly, [hello@dorsetvisualarts.org](mailto:hello@dorsetvisualarts.org) if you are experiencing any difficulties. You should be notified that your application has been submitted (check your junk folder if not received).

## Selection

- Final online selection will be carried out by two guest judges.  
Toby Wiggins RP - Artist [tobywiggins.co.uk](http://tobywiggins.co.uk)  
[therp.co.uk/toby-wiggins-the-art-of-hedgelaying](http://therp.co.uk/toby-wiggins-the-art-of-hedgelaying)  
Shannon Dugdale - Visitor Services Ranger and Gallery Manager, Durlston Country Park NNR
- Works will be selected for the exhibition anonymously.
- Once the selectors have made their decisions artists will be emailed with the results. The decision of the selectors is final and we can not give individuals feedback.
- It is anticipated that all works selected will be hung. However, DVA does reserve the right not to hang works at the hanging stage for curatorial reasons. You will be notified if this is the case.

## Fixings & Labels

- Wall hanging works should be professionally presented, framed or stretched on a support suitable for the attachment of D rings.
- Artists are advised to use plain, simple framing.
- Metal frames, unprotected glass edges and clip frames will not be accepted.
- Selected 2D work must be framed with suitable D rings attached to the back of the frame and strong picture framers chord (no wire). This should be  $\frac{1}{3}$  from the top of the frame.
- Labelling 2D work -
  - Two labels should be clearly written or printed on a thin card for each piece.
  - Labels should include the artist's name, email address, telephone number, title of the work, the medium and selling price.
  - One label must be firmly attached to the back of all 2D work, and another securely attached by thin string long enough to hang over the front of the work from the top.
- For 3D work, it is important to fix a label to the base of your work. If it is not possible to use a large label with all the information included above, then a clearly readable name and telephone number will suffice. In addition, a luggage type label with all the contact details, as above, tied onto a string securely looped over the work would also be helpful. These stringed labels will be removed if the work is accepted.
- Packaging from delivered works cannot be retained and must be taken away at the point of delivery.

## Delivery and Packaging

- **Delivery of selected work will be on Wednesday 21st May, 11am - 3pm to the Fine Foundation Gallery in person or by a representative.** A space will be available for unwrapping your work. Packaging must then be removed by the artist as we have no storage space for this.
- Fragile ceramics/glass may remain wrapped, with identity labels easily accessible.

## **Sale of Works**

- The price stated on your submission is the selling price and must include DVA/Durlston commission of 40%
- The information on your entry form will be used for all pricing documents. Please ensure this is correct at the time of submission.
- Artists will be advised of sales, and payment to the artist will be made after the exhibition has ended.

## **Insurance:**

- Whilst the exhibition organisers will take every possible care of works in the gallery, they cannot undertake any responsibility whatsoever for any loss of, or damage to, works entrusted to them.
- All artworks submitted are at the artist owner's risk. Artists are therefore advised to insure their works against all risks.

## **Collecting Work:**

- Unsold work must be collected from Fine Foundation Gallery at the end of the exhibition on Thursday 12th June 11am - 3pm.
- In order to collect your work please bring a form of ID.
- If a third party is collecting work on your behalf, they must bring a letter or email saying they have permission to collect the work.

## **Copyright**

- Copyright remains with the artist. By submitting entries and agreeing to the terms and conditions, the artist agrees that their work can be used for promotion by DVA and Durlston Country Park. e.g. social media, website, printed materials for marketing purposes.

## **DVA Declaration**

### *Art - Ecology - Community*

The visual arts, and artists, are in a unique position to comment, reflect on, and shape the world around us. Creativity can play a vital role in connecting individuals and communities, informing and explaining, and setting radical discourse, where it finds itself at the junction of enquiry, debate and visual appreciation.

Dorset Visual Arts wishes to encourage its Members to critically engage around issues of sustainability and climate change, not only in their chosen subject matter but also in the making and production of their work. DVA wants to take action on climate change by supporting the production and promotion of new work from individuals and commissioned work in its programme, such as through Art Weeks events, Education work and Community engagement.

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