

OPEN CALL

Dorset County Hospital | April - July 2025

Biophilia, n.

*A love or empathy with the natural world,
especially when seen as a human instinct*

In partnership with Arts in Hospital and The Arborealists, Dorset Visual Arts announces an Open Call to Dorset artists for works which relate to the theme Biophilia, with a particular focus on trees, woodland, hedgerows and commons.

As DVA and Dorset Council declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency, a focus on the natural world and the benefits of immersion in nature are a central element to DVA's work. Wellbeing and biophilia are important to all of us but particularly in a hospital setting where many are unable to get outside. By visually representing biophilia, or 'bringing the outside in', we can help support the wellbeing of patients. Dorset has an abundance of veteran trees, ancient woodland, hedgerows and commons which provide important habitats for different species as well as places for recreation, relaxation and rejuvenation.

This callout invites artists who have responded to such environments and locations in Dorset and who address ecological concerns and notions in their work. It is open to all artists within a 40 mile radius of Dorchester.

The exhibition also coincides with an exhibition by The Arborealists at Gallery by the Lakes in March and April. Tim Craven, President of The Arborealists, will select from submitted works along with Suzy Rushbrook, Arts in Hospital.

There will be a £10 administration fee for selected works, to help contribute to costs including marketing and administration. 25 works will be selected to show alongside Guest works from The Arborealists.

Marketing

The exhibition will be promoted in Evolver Magazine, a DVA press release, DVA Newsletters, DVA and Arts in Hospital Social Media and other selected channels.

Timeline

- Exhibition dates: 16 April until mid-July 2025
- Submissions open: 3 March
- Submissions close: 17 March, Midday
- Judging: 18 March
- Decisions announced: 19 March
- Delivery of works to Dorset County Hospital: 15 April, 10 -11am

Works to be delivered to: drop off - North 1 Main Entrance, Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2JY

Commission: Arts In Hospital takes 35% commission, so please factor this into pricing. All works are for sale.

Presentation: There is no size limit for 2D works. DVA asserts the right to reject any selected works which are presented poorly or are inappropriate.

Submissions

- Please submit one good quality image of your artwork
- The image file must be labelled: FirstnameSurname_Title
- Image file must be at least 1MB, no larger than 3MB
- Your email must include labelling information: Name, Title of Work, Medium, Price (including commission) + framed dimensions + link to website/social media
- Send submissions to: Paul Newman, director@dorsetvisualarts.org
- Work must have D-Rings attached, and high up the frame to avoid leaning
- **Works must be framed and UNDER GLASS or in Acrylic**, and presented to a professional standard
- Artists are responsible for the delivery and collection of artwork to the hospital
- Temporary exhibitions are insured while on the premises, up to the value of £35k, but artists will be responsible for insurance during transportation.

As well as providing information for labelling, **selected artists** will also be required to provide a short statement (up to 100 words) to explain what nature and wellbeing means to them in their practice.

Subject to discussion, we propose to send the selected works to Art at the Heart, the Creative Health programme at the Royal United Hospital in Bath. This would run from July - November 2025, and would show the selected works alongside 25 works from The Arborealists in a joint show. This important initiative allows artists two opportunities to exhibit, one within Dorset and one outside the county. artatruh.org/exhibitions/

ARTS IN HOSPITAL at DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL

At Dorset County Hospital we have around 750 artworks either commissioned or purchased for the public and clinical spaces, as well as a number of loan works from Arts Council England, Paintings in Hospitals and individual artists. Arts in Hospital aims to enhance the hospital environment, raise the patients' spirits and give pleasure to all who are concerned with their welfare – helping Dorset to feel better.