

AIB YOUNG PORTRAIT PRIZE 2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a portrait?

A portrait is a representation of a person, made from any material. For example, a painting, drawing, collage, photograph, sculpture, audio or video.

How many entries can I submit?

Entry is limited to one portrait per artist.

Can I submit a portrait I did a few years ago?

No, you can only submit a portrait that you made in the last 12 months.

Can I resubmit a portrait I entered last year?

No, your portrait must be made within the last 12 months.

If my portrait has won another award, can I enter it?

Yes.

Do I have to be from Ireland to submit a portrait?

Entries are welcome from anyone aged between 0-18 years on the 3 July 2026 who normally lives in either in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

If I created my portrait as a commission, is it eligible? *A commission is an artwork made in exchange for a sum of money paid by an individual or an institution.*

No, commissioned portraits will not be accepted.

Are there any size restrictions?

The portrait must be of a size and medium that will fit in the Gallery. The Gallery has the right to exclude artworks that cannot be reasonably displayed due to their medium or size. Dimensions must be provided in the online entry form.

Is there a weight restriction?

Yes. The maximum weight is 40kg.

What portrait can I enter?

The portrait must be of someone you know.

Can I enter a self-portrait?

Yes.

Can I enter a portrait of my pet?

You are welcome to include your pet or any animal in the image as long as the main subject of the portrait is of a human.

Can I enter a portrait of a fictional/ imaginary figure?

No. Portraits of fictional, imaginary, unidentified, or unidentifiable figures – whether historical or contemporary – **will not be accepted**. Your portrait must feature a real person whom you personally know, such as a family member or teacher. You do however have the freedom to express yourself by exploring artistic style, medium or imaginative interpretation.

Can I enter a portrait of someone I know who is no longer living?

You can enter a portrait of someone you know who was living at the time of making the portrait.

Can I enter a diptych/triptych?

Yes. A diptych is an image created on two flat surfaces that are usually joined by a hinge. A triptych is an image created on three, flat surfaces that are usually joined by a hinge.

Can I enter through my school?

Yes. You can enter through your school but all submissions will be judged on an individual basis.

What materials can I use?

Works in any material (including painting, drawing, collage, photography, video, sound, print, textiles, ceramics, sculpture etc.) will be accepted. The materials you use for your portrait must be non-perishables; no foods e.g. pasta, rice, flowers.

Is it necessary to have the consent of the sitter?

Yes. A sitter is a person who sits for a portrait. Entrants who have been successful in making the shortlist will need to provide consent from the sitter. This will be a signature of the sitter on a form that the Gallery will send to shortlisted entrants. If the sitter is 16 or under (or can otherwise not consent on their own behalf) the shortlisted entrant must provide the consent of the sitter's parent/guardian.

If I have already won a prize at the National Gallery's Annual Young Portrait Prize, can I enter again?

Yes. If you have already won a prize at the National Gallery of Ireland's Annual Young Portrait Prize, you may enter again with a new portrait.

ENTRY PROCESS

Where can I enter my portrait?

On the National Gallery of Ireland website [here](#)

What will you do with my personal information?

All personal data given will be held securely by the Gallery and our data processor Submit, and will be used to administer your entry. It may be used for internal research/statistical purposes and media enquiries. Your data will also be shared with our partner venue(s).

Can I send in my application by post?

No.

What are the requirements for the images that I submit?

The image that you submit must be a clear image of your portrait only. It must be saved as a JPEG format. The file size must be 300DPI and must be no larger than 3MB.

How do I submit a video portrait?

Please share your video via the online application portal and use your own name as the title of the file you are sharing.

How do I submit an audio/sound portrait?

Please submit an MP3 or WAV file via the online application portal and use your own name as the title of the file you are sharing.

COMPETITION TIMINGS

When is the closing date?

The closing date for submissions is **10PM (Ireland time) 3 July 2026**. No entries submitted after this date and time will be considered.

When does the judging happen?

The panel of judges will make their initial selection in late July 2026.

How does the judging process work?

1. All the digital images/files of portraits successfully entered will be viewed by a panel of judges.
2. From these entries, the judges will draw up a longlist for a second round of judging.
3. From that longlist, they will select the final shortlist that will go on display at the Gallery on 14 November 2026.
4. They will then choose the overall winner and the age category winners, having examined the artworks in the Gallery.

When will I hear if my portrait has been shortlisted for the exhibition?

You will be notified by email in early August 2026.

Will I be informed if I have not been shortlisted?

Yes. You will be informed by email in early August 2026. The decisions of the judges are final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to such decisions.

If my work has been shortlisted when will I need to deliver it to the Gallery?

All shortlisted portraits must be delivered to the Gallery by appointment between Thursday 20 and Friday 21 August 2026. **All dates are subject to change.**

When does the exhibition open?

The exhibition of shortlisted portraits will open at the Gallery on 14 November 2026.

When is the prize giving ceremony?

The prize giving ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Gallery on Wednesday 2 December 2026. All dates are subject to change.

When does the exhibition close?

The exhibition of shortlisted portraits will close at the Gallery on 14 March 2027. Following the exhibition at the Gallery, the artworks will travel to two partner venues, where they will be displayed at dates yet to be confirmed.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

Portrait: a representation of a person made out of any material, for example, a painting, drawing, collage, photograph, sculpture, audio or video.

Entrant: a person who enters or takes part in something.

Sitter: a person who sits for a portrait.

Consent: permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.

Diptych: an image created on two flat surfaces, usually joined by hinges.

Triptych: an image created on three, flat surfaces, usually joined by hinges.

Material: anything you use to make your portrait (for example, paint, ink, crayon, collage, pencil, wire, wood)

2D: two-dimensional surface (for example, a sheet of paper, card or wood, stretched canvas)

3D: three-dimensional object (for example, a sculpture made of material such as wood, wire, steel)

Video: a recording of moving visual images made digitally or on videotape.

Audio: sound that is recorded, transmitted, or reproduced.

MB: Megabyte. This is a multiple of units for digital information. A digital image size is measured in bytes.

DPI: Dots per inch. A measure of resolution used for printed text or images; the more dots per inch, the higher the resolution.

The AIB Young Portrait Prize is an inclusive art competition open to children and young people of all abilities from across the island of Ireland.
