

AIB PORTRAIT PRIZE 2026 – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

How many entries can I submit?

Entry is limited to one portrait per artist.

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

The portrait must have been started after 3 July 2023 and completed by 3 July 2026.

Can I resubmit a portrait I entered last year?

Yes, as long as:

- It was completed within the required dates (3 July 2023 - 3 July 2026).
- It was not shortlisted in previous years for the Zurich Portrait Prize or AIB Portrait Prize competitions at the National Gallery of Ireland (the Gallery).

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

Yes.

Are there any size restrictions?

- The portrait must be a size and medium that allows it to be displayed in the Gallery.
- The Gallery reserves the right to exclude artworks that cannot be reasonably displayed due to their size or medium.
- Unframed dimensions must be provided in the entry form.
- If framed, framed dimensions must also be included.

What does 'ready for display' mean?

- Your portrait must be finished and ready for display without amendments.
- If a frame is required, all framing must be completed before delivery to the Gallery.
- 2D artworks:
 - Will be hung from wires if shortlisted.
 - Must accommodate a 20mm-wide hanging fixing.
- Any equipment that is specific and/or integral to the display of the artwork, such as screens, media players, plinths, or display cases, will need to be provided by the artist.

Can I enter a self-portrait or a group portrait?

Yes.

Can I enter a portrait of my pet?

No. Portraits of animals will not be accepted.

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

No. Portraits of fictional/ imaginary figures will not be accepted. Portraits of unidentified/unidentifiable figures (whether living or historical) are also not acceptable.

Can I enter a diptych or triptych?

Yes.

What media can I use?

- Artworks in any media (including photography, video, sound, print, textiles, ceramics, sculpture etc.) are acceptable.
- The Gallery has the right to exclude artworks if the materials, substances, or media used are deemed to be unacceptable, that is, hazardous.

Is the sitter's consent required?

- Yes, the artist must have the consent of the sitter(s) (or, where relevant, the sitter's parent, guardian or estate) to submit the portrait and this consent must be marked in the entry form.
- If permission has not been granted, this will lead to disqualification. If shortlisted for the AIB Portrait Prize, you will be asked to provide proof of consent from the sitter in your portrait.

Can I submit a commissioned portrait?

Yes, provided that:

- It was started after 3 July 2023 and completed by 3 July 2026.
- It was not shortlisted in previous Zurich Portrait Prize or AIB Portrait Prize competitions at the Gallery.

I have worked with the Gallery before. Am I eligible to enter?

Yes, unless you are:

- Currently undertaking work for, or in collaboration with the Gallery.
- Scheduled to work for the Gallery on or before 3 July 2026.

ENTRY PROCESS

Where do I submit my entry?

Entries must be submitted via the online submission system (link available on the Gallery [website](#)).

What happens to my personal information?

All personal data will be securely held by the Gallery and Submit (our data processor).

Please see the Rules and Guidelines for further information on how we will use and process your personal data.

Can I submit my entry by post?

No.

How many digital photographs can I submit?

- 2D artworks (e.g., paintings, photographs): 1 JPEG.
- 3D artworks (e.g., sculptures): Up to 3 digital images.

What are the image requirements?

- Accepted image format: JPEG
- Resolution: 300 DPI
- File size: No larger than 3MB
- **Files sizes over 3MB will not be accepted.**

How do I submit a video portrait?

- Please upload your video file through the online submission system, using your name as the file title.

- Accepted video formats include: MP4, MOV, OGG, 3GP, QuickTime, M4V, and WMV.

How do I submit an audio/sound portrait?

- Please upload your audio file through the online submission system, using your name as the file title.
 - Accepted audio formats include: MP3, WAV, M4A, AAC, MPEG
-

COMPETITION TIMELINE

What is the submission deadline?

- 10PM (GMT), Friday 3 July 2026.
- Late entries will not be considered.

When does judging take place?

- Late July 2026.

How does the judging process work?

1. A panel of judges will view all the digital images/files of portraits successfully entered.
2. From these entries, the judges will draw up a longlist for a second round of adjudication.
3. From that longlist, they will select the final shortlist to go on display at the Gallery on 14 November 2026. All entries are reviewed anonymously by the panel of judges. Shortlisting decisions are based solely on the submitted image of each artwork.

4. Once the shortlist has been announced the identities of the shortlisted artists will be available to the panel of judges. They will then choose the winning portrait and two highly commended portraits, having examined the artworks in situ in the Gallery.

When will I be notified if I am shortlisted?

- Early August 2026 via email.

Will I be notified if I am not shortlisted?

- Yes. All entrants will receive an email in early August 2026.
- The decisions of the judging panel are final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to such decisions. Feedback will not be available whether an artist is shortlisted or not.

If shortlisted, when do I deliver my artwork?

- All shortlisted portraits must be delivered by appointment between Thursday 20 – Friday 21 August 2026. These dates are subject to change.

When does the exhibition open?

- 14 November 2026 at the National Gallery of Ireland.
- The prize-giving ceremony will place on 2 December 2026.
- All dates are subject to change.

When does the exhibition close?

- 14 March 2027 at the Gallery.
- The shortlisted artworks will travel to two partner venues after this date, from April to June, and from July to August 2027.

- Shortlisted artworks must be available for the entire duration of the exhibition at the National Gallery of Ireland and that partner venues. Shortlisted artworks cannot be collected or reclaimed prior to the closure of all exhibitions.
-

SHORTLISTED ARTISTS – REQUIRED INFORMATION

If shortlisted, you will be asked to provide:

1. Artist statement
2. Confirmation of contact details
3. Confirmation of your town/locality and county (with permission or us to share this information with the media)
4. Artist biography
5. High-resolution image(s) of your artwork
6. Confirmation of your artwork's title and credit line
7. Confirmation of your artwork's framed and/or unframed dimensions
8. Display requirements (for mixed media, sculptures, etc.)
9. Confirmation of permission for the media to contact you for interview purposes
10. Social media handles (where relevant)
11. Permission to allow members of the public to photograph your artwork in the Gallery and any prospective partner exhibition venue(s) for non-commercial use. Tripods, monopods and flashlights will be prohibited at all times. Shortlisted artists will retain the right to refuse permission to this request.
12. Permission for a non-exclusive, sub-licensable, royalty-free, irrevocable licence for the Sponsor to reproduce and crop images of your artwork

for their own publicity and digital purposes in connection with the Prize. Shortlisted artists will retain the right to refuse permission to this request.