



The Guild Exhibition 2026 at the RBSA

themed 'Defence of the Realm'

Entry Terms, Conditions & Information

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 About

The Guild of Aviation Artists Exhibition is themed 'Defence of the Realm' and takes place during Battle of Britain Week commemorations in September 2026. These terms, conditions and the information incorporated apply to all artists submitting work for this Exhibition. Supplementary rules and/or Information Sheets may be published separately.

The exhibition will be held at RBSA Gallery, 4 Brook Street, St. Paul's Square, Birmingham, B3 1SA from the 14th to 26th September 2026. The opening ceremony will be held at 6pm on Monday 14th September. The RBSA Exhibition opener will be Air Marshal Sir Barry North KCB, OBE, President of the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA). Battle of Britain week occurs during the exhibition, and a donation from each painting sale will be made to support RAFA. It will be open to the public from 10am on Tuesday 15th September, normally celebrated as "Battle of Britain Day". The RBSA Exhibition and paintings displayed will also have an online presence following the above closing date.

Submission of works is open to Guild members only.

Please read the following information, instructions, and guidance carefully. By an artist submitting works it is to be taken as the unreserved acceptance of the entire contents of the terms and conditions outlined in this document.

Selection will take place online and accepted works will be required to be delivered to RBSA on Sunday 13th September and hung on the same day.

1.2 Subject Matter

Any aerospace subject in any media that is applied entirely by hand. Works produced mechanically or electronically, including computer-generated and digital works, are not acceptable. All work must be original and preferably new, however, work which has been shown at the 2024, 2025 or 2026 Annual exhibitions will be considered eligible.

There is no restriction on subject matter or era, although it is hoped most of the works will reflect the theme of the exhibition. However, works of a political, sexual, racial, offensive, proselytising, commercial or promotional nature will not be accepted. All works will be subject to selection for this exhibition.

The Guild may accept or decline any Work submitted for the Exhibition entirely at its own discretion. The Guild's decision is final.

The Guild reserves the right to deny admission or withdraw a Work from the Exhibition if for any reason the Work, or any circumstances surrounding the display of the Work, appears to the Guild to expose it to potential or actual damage to its reputation, risk of legal proceedings or enforcement including, without limitation, the alleged breach of third-party intellectual property rights.

Works entered 'Not For Sale' will be accepted at the discretion of the Guild.

Prints and limited editions are not acceptable.

Copies of the work of other artists or published photographs are not admissible. Works subsequently found to be such copies will not be hung.

2. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

2.1 Introduction

Please take great care to read the submission instructions carefully as any entries received which do not comply will not be accepted.

The submission process will be on-line. Note that the Exhibition will be open to Guild members only (See 1.1). Non-members wishing to exhibit may join the Guild as a Friend. See the Guild website for membership details: www.gava.org.uk.

Artists wishing to submit works for consideration should complete the online form (see 2.2 below) and send associated images (as per 2.3 below) to the GAvA Exhibition email address - rbsa@gava.org.uk

The submission period will be from 8th to 22nd June 2026.

Full Members and Associates may submit up to 6 works, Friends up to 4 works.

Unsold works from RBSA exhibition will not be eligible for following year's Annual as per current rules.

2.2 Entry

Entries must be in the following format with all headings completed. The entries should be detailed using the online form **using Title case** (Not capitals):

<https://forms.gle/gPi4LfiH6ZmzDcyRA> General:

Artist's name

Name to be used (if different)

Membership type and number

Address

Email address

Tel no

Vat no (if applicable)

For each painting entered:

Title (max 30 characters including spaces)

Subject description (max 36 characters including spaces)

Size in centimetres (w x h)

Medium

Price

It is important that information supplied is correct as this will form the basis for any catalogue or listing produced for the exhibition.

Titles should be concise and must not exceed 30 characters/spaces. The Subject Description should include the aircraft type and other details of the painting not to exceed 36 characters/spaces.

The organisers reserve the right to amend titles and descriptions as necessary.

Media descriptions MUST be chosen from the following: Oil, Acrylic, Gouache, Watercolour, Pencil, Graphite, Charcoal, Pen and ink, Pastel (oil or soft) or Mixed to cover any combination of media. Different media descriptions may apply to sculptures.

Please note that the size entered must include the frame, be given in centimetres and be width x height (in that order)

2.3 Images

A .jpg image of each painting submitted should be forwarded with the Entry.

To avoid any confusion each image/file must be renamed in capital letters in the form of 'artist's surname, space, artist's first name, space, dash, space, title of work'. For instance:

Robinson Peter - Spitfires Over the Solent.jpg

The image file name must **exactly** match that given on the entry details supplied by the artist.

The quality and accuracy of images submitted is of paramount importance as these will be used by the selection panel, the catalogue and on Guild website. Good quality images may attract any potential buyers.

For these reasons the image MUST:

- Clearly show the full work INCLUDING frame or mount
- Be of sufficient resolution to clearly show detail
- Be photographed squarely (i.e. each corner 90°)
- Be in focus
- Be taken in good light which reflects an accurate portrayal of the colours used

If you have difficulties with image resizing or any other queries regarding this process the following Guild members have kindly offered their assistance and can be contacted:

Paul Warrener GAvA – northernregion@gava.org.uk

David Young GAvA - davidyoung_art@yahoo.co.uk

Paul Warrener has also produced a guide to taking successful images of pictures, which can be found on the Guild Facebook group or emailed out by request.

All images supplied must include and clearly show the full frame.

2.4 Selection

The Selection Panel comprises five Full Members of the Guild who vote independently of each other on each work. The score of votes alone determines whether each work is accepted or rejected. A work will be accepted if at least 3 of the 5 judges vote yes.

The decision of the Selection Panel shall be final.

Artists entering works that are not for sale will be accepted at the discretion of the Guild.

It is not necessarily implied that all selected work will be hung.

Feedback regarding rejected works may be given by contacting the Guild.

2.5 Results

Artists will be notified of the results by email no later than one month following the closure of submissions.

2.6 Presentation

All works MUST be properly framed to an acceptable standard.

Unframed box canvases will not be accepted

Clip frames, all-glass frames and metal frames (including metal-clad wood frames) are not acceptable.

Watercolours, pastels etc or framing which includes a card mount must be properly glazed as tradition expects. 'Acrylic glass' type glazing is acceptable.

The hanging cord will NOT be used so can be left in place or removed. Any protuberances which could damage other paintings in transit or storage should be taped over.

As per 2025 EXHIBITION, MIRROR PLATES **ARE** REQUIRED.

All paintings must be fitted with mirror plates, centred each side. Mirror plates should be painted white prior to delivery of paintings.

Existing 'D' rings and cords affixed to frames may be left in place.

To minimise this risk of damage during handling, stacking and storage, screw heads and exposed edges of the plate should be covered over with masking tape

Where the back of the frame is noticeably separated from the plane of the wall, please fit packers to avoid the risk of distorting the frame when hanging.

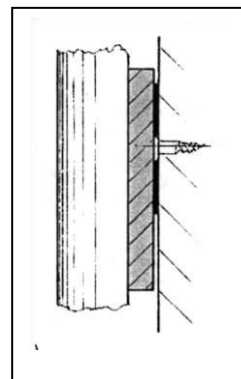


Fig A

2.7 Delivery of accepted works

Successful entries will need to be brought to The RBSA Galleries on Sunday 13th September between 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm. The hanging of the works will take place the same afternoon.

Artists delivering works should note parking arrangements in the vicinity, where there is on-street parking (no charges on Sundays) and an NCP car park opposite.

2.8 Entry Fees

The price and measurements shown on the Entry Form must include the frame and VAT if applicable.

Exhibition fees are as follows:

Submission fee - A submission fee will NOT be charged.

Hanging fees

Hanging fees are the same as for the Annual Exhibition at Shuttleworth in 2026.

The **exception** to this is if a painting selected for Birmingham which has previously hung in the Shuttleworth Annual exhibitions 2024, 2025 or 2026, only a £10 administration fee per painting is payable. This acknowledges the support given by artists for the Annual.

Given the above Hanging fees for accepted work will be based on the following scale:

Band	Size to include frame	Full Members and Associates.	Friends
Band A	All work up to and including 40cm	£16	£20
Band B	Work from 41 cm up to 90cm (longest dimension)	£24	£32
Band C	Work from 91 cm up to 130cm (longest dimension)	£40	£52
Band D	Work from 131 cm up to 180cm (longest dimension)	£52	£68

Artists will be contacted by e-mail notifying the result of their submission and hanging fees due. Payment should preferably be made via Square: <https://guild-of-aviation-artists.square.site/>

NOTE that: to be included in the e-mail notification of hanging fees due, a deadline (likely the 1st August) for payment of fees will be confirmed. This deadline is to ensure enough time for exhibition planning and catalogue preparation. Any withdrawals of works after this date will in general mean hanging fees will not be refunded.

Similarly, non-payment of hanging fees by the due date will be taken to indicate the artist has decided not to exhibit.

2.9 Minimum Prices

Artists are expected to price their own works at a level that reflects their participation in a prestigious Aviation Paintings of the Year Exhibition. Please note the minimum prices that should be applied.

Band A	£200
Band B	£250
Band C	£300
Band D	£400

2.10 Optional Captions

The RBSA would welcome artists submitting a brief resume of themselves, and / or a description of each specific work. Caption for each entry can be up to 850 characters (approx. 150 words). In this case no additional fee is payable. Please complete a separate 'optional captions' form which can be found on the website or through the link below. Only fill in the form for entries where you wish there to be a caption, using the same picture number as for your entries.

<https://forms.gle/9nN1126mQ1foyg66>

GENERAL

3.1 Sales/Commissions from the exhibition

All sales made during the exhibition will be conducted by the RBSA. The RBSA will make all arrangements and handle packing and carriage for any purchasers who cannot collect at the end of the exhibition.

NOTE: At this exhibition, purchasers will NOT be able to buy 'off the wall' and will have to wait until the exhibition closes.

Once accepted no work may be removed or withdrawn by the artist from the Exhibition until dismantling day.

Unless requested otherwise, entries will be kept on the Guild website after the exhibition is closed and will remain for sale. If an entered work is subsequently sold privately by the artist, the Guild must be informed.

A commission charge of any sales will be deducted by the Guild at the following rate (deducted at the time of payment to the Artist):

30% comprising RBSA 12%, Guild 12%, RAFA donation 6%.

Any private commissions introduced or negotiated by the Guild will also be subject to a commission rate of 30%.

All purchasers must complete the Guild Sales Form in accordance with the Conditions of Sale.

Subject to sales being completed and all purchase money received by the Guild, payment to the Artist would expect to be made in October.

We will try to update the Guild website to show sales across the weekend, but late sales may not be included until after the exhibition closes. Artists can check whether they have any unsold works to collect by contacting the Guild.

The Guild reserves the right to not hang any paintings subsequently found to not be a true portrayal of the image supplied or for any reason agreed upon by the General Committee.

3.2 Copyright

Artists retain the copyright of all their own work unless this is specifically transferred to the client when the picture is sold. Any enquiries about copyright will be referred by the Guild to the Artist, and fees will be negotiated by the Guild in the normal way.

An Artist who intends to exhibit a work on which the Copyright has been sold or assigned should inform the Guild on submission. Permission to reproduce a work in any form must be obtained from the artist. Special rules exist, however, in the case of portraits of persons.

3.3 VAT

The Guild of Aviation Artists is not registered for VAT. All catalogue prices quoted on the Entry Schedules must include VAT, if the Artist is VAT registered. A VAT invoice may be required by the client. Artists must enter their VAT numbers on the Entry Schedule, and a list of VAT registered Artists can be obtained from the Guild administration if required.

3.4 Publicity and Press

The Guild reserves the right to use works for press and publicity purposes without reference to the artists for publicising the exhibition. The artist will be deemed to have extended his/her copyright for this purpose.

The RBSA requires examples of works in the exhibition including a 'poster' image by 13th March. Therefore, a small number of pre-selection images will be chosen for this purpose.

3.5 Admission on Opening Day

Opening ceremony will be on Monday 14th September at 6pm by invitation only.

3.6 Lapel badges

When attending the Exhibition, exhibitors are requested to wear their membership card or a lapel badge, which gives their name and membership status.

3.7 Liability and Insurance

The Guild, the Exhibition Organisers and RBSA and/or their agents undertake no responsibility whatsoever for any loss of or damage to works entrusted to them, whether arising from fire, default, error, neglect or theft by carriers, packers or other persons, and whether in their own employment or not or otherwise howsoever and all goods are at the owner's risk absolutely. All exhibitors/owners are advised to insure their works against 'All Risks'. The Guild does NOT insure Members' work.

3.8 Enquiries/Contact details

All enquiries prior to the exhibition should be made to the Guild Administrator.
E-mail: admin@gava.org.uk Tel: 03331 302 223 www.gava.org.uk

During the Exhibition Sales will be handled by the RBSA.

3.9 Closure of the Exhibition and collection of work

No work may be removed before the end of the Exhibition.

The exhibition will officially end at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday 26th September 2026.

Collection of unsold works by artists will be on dismantling day, Sunday 27th September from 10:00 a.m. until 12 Noon. Artists should again park locally as per availability of spaces. Artists, or their representatives, will need to present their GAvA Membership Card or another form of ID when collecting and sign each work out on exit.

Artists who are unable to check online for sales updates may call the Guild admin on 03331-302223 to confirm if they have unsold work needing collection.

It is the Artist's responsibility to collect, or arrange to be collected, any unsold works from The Collection on dismantling day as neither the Guild nor The RBSA have facilities for collection, transportation, or storage of unsold works.

3.10 Picture Post

Collection from:

A1 North Doncaster to Edinburgh Errol on Tuesday 1st September 2026

Stirling, Glasgow, M74, M62 Manchester to Doncaster on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 Delivery to RBSA on Thursday 3rd September

Unsold works collected from RBSA on Thursday 1st October

Delivery to:-

A1 North Doncaster to Edinburgh/Errol on Tuesday 6th October 2026

Stirling, Glasgow M74, M62 Manchester to Doncaster on Wednesday 7th October 2026 Birmingham area on Thursday 8th October 2026

Price structure for delivery to GAVA for pictures measuring less than one metre, longest side including frame

£78.00 including VAT for the first picture

£26.00 including VAT for the second picture

£15.00 including VAT for the third picture and subsequent ones.

For first side exceeding 1 metre including frame, add £10.00

For second side exceeding 1 metre including frame, add a further £10.00

For pictures exceeding 1.5m on any side, please ask for a quotation For 3D work please ask for a quotation.

4. HELP AND GUIDANCE FOR EXHIBITORS

The Guild aims to put on the best possible exhibition with the widest field of interest, selected from the works submitted.

All works submitted are regarded on merit alone and have an equal chance of selection. What we want to see is an imaginative, original, exciting, atmospheric composition, competently executed.

What is the Selection Panel looking for?

Take advantage of a story or historic event, an actual experience, or a busy scene; this will help you create a properly composed whole, instead of just selecting a photograph and wondering what to do with it.

Bear in mind that a successful composition is a matter of colour, harmony, tone values, texture, lighting, and consistency. Always check your work critically in the light of these criteria. If your subject matter and approach require technical accuracy, make sure you achieve this. Abstract work will be considered on artistic merit and must have aviation content.

Make the most of artistic principles that give your art 'depth'.

To emphasise the above most works rejected are done so as they show poor composition, a lack of depth or are a poor technical execution of the aircraft.

Slavish copying of published or well-known photographs, or of someone else's work, will result in rejection.

Exhibitors are encouraged to help publicise the exhibition to as wide an audience as possible.

The Guild are always looking for helpers to assist with the exhibition. Members are therefore encouraged to volunteer when calls for help are made, for Hanging Day (Sunday 13th September) and Dismantling Day (Sunday 27th September). Contact the Guild if you would like to help. It's a great chance to meet other members and see how things come together to make the exhibition a success. The RBSA handle all sales during the exhibition.

Guild of Aviation Artists

April 2026