



Young Artists' Summer Show 2026

A selection of works from the eighth Young Artists' Summer Show
at the Royal Academy of Arts, curated by Seren Metcalfe and Josh Clague.

14th July - 30th August 2026
Royal Academy of Art,
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD







Young Artists Summer Show 2026

The Royal Academy of Arts is proud to welcome you to the eighth year of the Young Artists Summer Show. This exhibition celebrates and celebrates the creativity of young artists and the importance of art in education.

Having set another young people's focus by displaying a range of their work, we are delighted to bring you this year's exhibition. It is a chance for young people to show their work to a wider audience and to be part of a community of young artists who are making a difference.

Through the exhibition we encourage you to experience and appreciate the talent and creativity of young people. We hope you enjoy their passion, insight, imagination and skill and that you gain an understanding of the importance of the education who nurture their creativity.

The expert panel of judges have chosen artworks for this exhibition, all with a focus on young people. The 2026 exhibition is a celebration of the official program of education. The judges were looking for original ideas, unique expressions of creativity, and a sense of discovery by artists aged 10-19 years old from across the length of the UK.

Louise Wilson, Jane and Louise Wilson OBE, has awarded a series of prizes to the year's winners, commencing with displaying a statue which you can look out for. We also encourage you to explore your interests and make your favorite artwork in our People's Choice Award.

Displayed here in our gallery, Royal Academy, is a permanent collection of art education and for the importance of all children and young people being able to art.

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Made possible by Royal Academy



The Royal Academy of Arts is proud to welcome you to the eighth year of the Young Artists' Summer Show. This exhibition showcases and celebrates the creativity of young artists and the importance of art in education.

Making art enriches young people's lives by developing a sense of free, flexible and independent thinking — skills that make them resilient to the challenges of an ever-changing world. Creating art can help us make sense of our lives and the world around us, and in looking at art we have opportunities to understand the lived experiences of others.

Through this exhibition we encourage you to experience and appreciate the voices and ideas of young people. We hope you enjoy their passion, insight, imagination, and skill and that you join us in celebrating the commitment of the educators who nurture their creativity.

The expert panel of judges have chosen artworks for this exhibition, as well as the online gallery, from over 25,000 submitted works. Throughout the difficult process of selection, the judges were looking for original ideas, unique expressions of creativity, and a mix of disciplines, by artists aged 4–18 years old from across the breadth of the UK.

Louise Wilson, Jane and Louise Wilson RA, has awarded a variety of prizes to this year's artists, with prizewinning works displaying a sticker which you can look out for. We also encourage you to express your opinions and vote for your favourite artworks in our People's Choice Award.

Deepest thanks to our sponsor, Robin Hambro, a passionate advocate for art in education, and for the importance of all children and young people having access to art.

Thank you to our project team Araba Mercer Banson, Selina Levinson Drake, Jessica Webb, and Rhys Smallman, curators Seren Metcalfe and Joshua Clague, and to our judges.

Primary | Ages 4–11 years

Mike Nelson RA

Artist

Seren Metcalfe

RA Schools student

Natasha Fyffe

Assistant Curator, Exhibitions

Vicky Carmichael

Director of Programmes, Freelands Foundation

Secondary | Ages 11–18 years

Sikelela Owen RA

Artist

Joshua Clague

RA Schools Student

Eliza Bonham Carter

Curator and Director of RA Schools

Canon Marlene Wylie

Past President and Senior Fellow, National Society of Education in Art and Design



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