

LSA 2026

Annual Exhibition Outline



LSA 2026

Annual Exhibition Outline

Exhibition early Feb to early March, Gallery 11, New Walk Museum & Art Gallery

The 2026 LSA Annual Exhibition will showcase over 300 previously unseen works by professional artists from around Leicestershire and Rutland. The LSA has been running since 1881 and this year will be our 135th annual show at New Walk Museum & Art Gallery. LSA funded and sponsored prizes will be awarded on the opening night.

The exhibition will include timely arrangements in consultation with the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery team in terms of logistical planning and delivery.

A comprehensive design package will include signage, marketing material and customer facing communications, together with a PR program using all available press outlets and our dedicated social media outlets. Project documentation and evaluations will be available to all participating organisations.



Gallery 11 Leicester New Walk Museum & Art Gallery



LSA

**STUDENT
AWARD
2025/26**

The exhibition will include graduate artists shortlisted for the LSA Student Award, an initiative in association with De Montfort University and Loughborough University School of Design and Creative Arts to recognize and support emerging artists. The Winner will receive a £500 prize.



Exhibition Participation and Engagement

During the LSA Annual Exhibition we are planning to deliver a series of public events (TBC) in the gallery, these are to be finalised (and discussed with the museum in terms of logistics) but it is anticipated that they will include –

Half Term family events – STILL LIFE art in the gallery with plants. Artist led (funded).

Saturday event – LIFE DRAWING WITH DANCE featuring artists from the society painting and drawing Indian Dancers accompanied by a live interactive performance by Hari Trivedi <https://drumandbrass.co.uk/hari-trivedi/>, with an accompanying video performance and live workshop by LSA member Vishal Joshi.

Saturday event – SHOW & TELL SKETCHBOOKS featuring artists from the society sketching on location in the gallery along with other art groups from around the city.



Hari Trivedi photo courtesy of Hari Trivedi -Drum & Brass



Vishal Joshi - Image from Vishal's video 'Flow State'



LSA artists will be joined by other local art groups working in the gallery throughout the exhibition.

A stylized illustration of a large, vibrant flower with red and yellow petals, set against a dark blue background. A small, dark figure is sitting inside the flower's center. The flower has a thick green stem and a large green leaf at the bottom. The overall style is graphic and modern.

LSA ART
IN THE
GARDEN

Art in the Garden

The exhibition will include a special feature of LSA works from our 'Art in the Garden' project which has been piloted over two years.

In 2024 the LSA in association with the Leicester Hospital Trust and Leicester University have run a series of plein air art events in Leicester Botanical Gardens and 'The Secret Garden' at Glenfield Hospital. These events were designed to provide public access to artists working out on location over the summer in the largest city wide plein air event of its kind. Participants of all ages were invited to watch artists, ask questions and indeed make their own responses to the garden. Young artists were given free sketchbooks and drawing materials.

In 2025 the 'Art in the Garden' project will be repeated, drawing upon the experiences of 2024 to reach new audiences. It is hoped that a funding bid with ACE (currently in progress) will enable increased public access to artists making art on location, support the extended artistic communities across the city and produce works that will ultimately populate the walls of the city hospitals, in the form of large suitably framed posters, bringing the garden indoors for the benefit of staff and patients alike. Confirmed match funding of £3K from New Walk Museum & Art Gallery and £3K from Leicester Hospital Trust are part of our bid.

The project in its depth will include workshop events, aimed at staff at LHT and residency opportunities in association with LHT looking at the benefits of art therapy in the workplace.

It is hoped that the LSA will receive funding to extend this project over the next 5 years, targeting different locations around the city and expanding the collection of works supplied to the hospitals.



LSA artists Susan Sansome and Siyuan Ren at work in Leicester University Botanic Garden

About Us

We are a society of artists living, working and studying in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. With more than 160 members, all practicing visual artists, we represent many perspectives on art. The Society was founded by imaginative forward-thinking artists in 1881. We have been known for over 140 years for our pioneering practice. We value our heritage and legacy and proudly continue this creative tradition and innovative outlook. We are committed to sharing and developing individual and original art.

We are artist-led and do not receive funding, relying on the support of members and exhibition sponsors.

Elected members to our LSA Council create our themes and install our shows. We have three officers elected annually, and six Council members who serve a three year term. Every year, two Council members are replaced so we benefit continuously from both experience and new ideas.

Visual artists living working or studying in Leicestershire or Rutland, or having a strong connection to the area, can apply for membership of the Society.

We want to create a culture within the LSA that respects and celebrates our differences, asserts that there is more that unites us than divides us, and recognises the strength that comes from diversity and inclusivity. We understand that some aspects of the arts can be controversial and do not reflect the society in which we now live. This might be uncomfortable for many of us. However, we recognise the need to challenge perceptions in all that we do.

We want everyone to feel welcome at our Council and AGM meetings and at our exhibitions and events. We do not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or bullying. Our members come from different walks of life, cultures and countries and we truly believe the arts are for everybody. We want our members to reflect the communities from which they come and we are always looking to increase the diversity of our membership and welcome all members of the wider community to our exhibitions and events. We recognise there is more we can do and we are committed to maintaining and working on our aspirations for inclusion and diversity as an important part of our agenda both now and in the future.

Our Policy

The LSA is committed to providing equal opportunities to anyone acting on behalf of the LSA and avoiding unlawful discrimination within the organisation both at Council and at individual member level. This policy is intended to assist the LSA and its members to put this commitment into practice. Compliance with this policy should also ensure that anyone acting on behalf of or within the LSA does not commit unlawful acts of discrimination. Striving to ensure that the environment in which we work, exhibit and volunteer is free from harassment and bullying and that everyone is treated with dignity and respect is an important aspect of ensuring equality within the LSA.

The recruitment and selection process of new members is crucially important to any equal opportunities policy. We will endeavour to ensure that anyone acting on behalf of the LSA, making selection and recruitment decisions will not discriminate, whether consciously or unconsciously, in making these decisions. All applicants who apply for membership with us will receive fair treatment and will be considered solely on their artistic ability. Selection decisions will not be influenced by any perceived prejudices of anyone acting on behalf of the LSA.

www.leicestersocietyofartists.co.uk



CONTACT INFORMATION

Project leader Deborah Bird - chair@leicestersocietyofartists.co.uk

Secretary Dayle Flude - secretary@leicestersocietyofartists.co.uk

Graphics & Publicity Chris Bent - christopherbent@btinternet.com

LSA President Diane Hall - dianemedicott.hall@ymail.com