



Open Exhibition

Celebrating local creativity

2026

What you need to know

Preston's beloved community art exhibition returns after a five-year break, showcasing local talent. It runs from February 21st to May 3rd 2026 and it's FREE to enter! The exhibition is open to everyone living, studying or working in the Preston City Council area or within 5-miles of The Harris.

Handing in dates

Tuesday 3 February, 1pm - 4.30pm

Thursday 5 February, 5pm - 9pm

Saturday 7 February, 10am - 4pm

Please take your artwork to The Harris, Gallery One (2nd floor). Please contact us before these dates if you need help with access.

Public opening

Saturday 21 February from 1pm. Winners announced at 2pm.

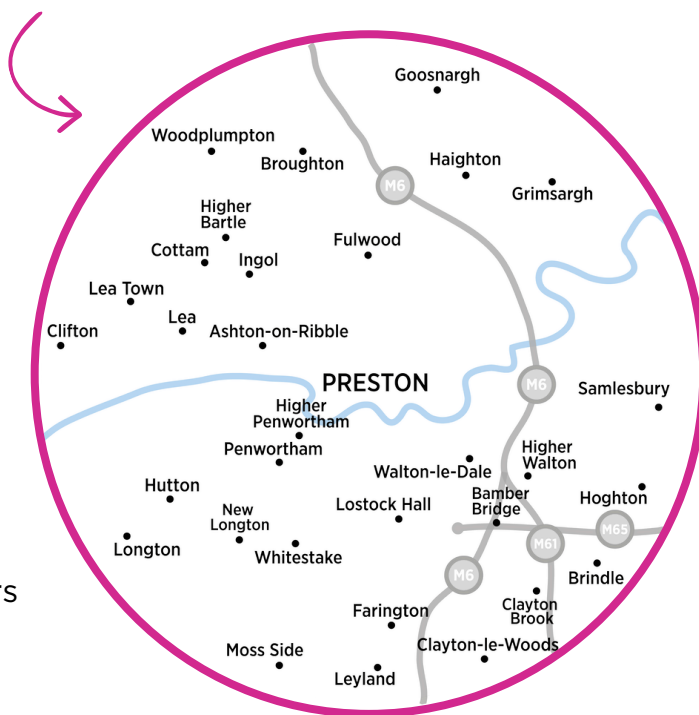
Winners

The judging panel will include people from different backgrounds including a member of the Harris team, somebody we work with in the community, and a Lancashire artist. Winners will include:

- First, second and third place winners
- An under 12's winner
- A community group winner
- A people's choice winner that will be revealed during the exhibition

Entering your artwork

Each person can enter 1 artwork. We are accepting entries from groups, this means one artwork that represents the whole group or 1 artwork per member of the group.





Open Exhibition

Celebrating local creativity

2026

To enter, your artwork must have been created in the last 12 months and be considered suitable for public display. Artworks we would consider unsuitable for display include:

- Works that raise concerns about public safety, the safety of Harris team members or the Harris building and its collections
- Anything that might provoke hatred, slander, pornography and political viewpoints

We encourage all art forms. This includes drawing, painting, print, photography, sculpture, contemporary art, digital art, fashion, illustration, experimental, traditional, finished, work in progress, sketchbooks, zines, the list is endless!

Open to all: We ask for all digital artwork featuring spoken word in any language to have subtitles. Please contact us if you need help on how to make your artwork more inclusive. We can provide help, for example: with how to consider deaf and visually impaired visitors.

Large artworks: There is no size restriction on artworks, however due to the space we have available and access through the building, if you have a large two-dimensional or freestanding three-dimensional work, it will need to be transported in the lift to Gallery One on the 2nd floor. The size of our lift is 235cm high x 93cm wide x 230cm deep. Please contact us before the handing in days if your work will not fit in the lift and you need help to get it up to Gallery One.

Electrical artworks: All works need an up-to-date Portable Appliance Test (PAT). A qualified electrician will be able to do the test for you. We will need to see the test certificate on handing in day.

Presenting your artwork

Two-dimensional artwork for display on a wall, such as a painting, print or drawing, should be in a frame. Unframed two-dimensional artworks must include a safe and secure method of display. If your work is unframed, it will be displayed at your own risk.



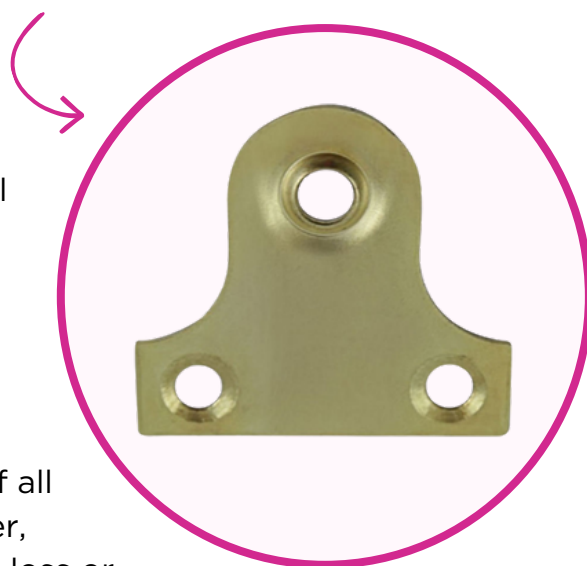
Open Exhibition

Celebrating local creativity

2026

Mirror plates are the most secure way to hang framed works. To save time during installation, please attach mirror plates with screws to the back of your artwork before handing it in. See the image below:

Three-dimensional artworks must be freestanding, meaning they stand safely on the floor or on a plinth without the need of supports. Smaller three-dimensional works will be displayed on covered plinths or in display cases. Please tell us about any extra requirements on your Entry Form.



Insurance

We will take every care to ensure the safety of all artworks whilst they are in The Harris. However, The Harris does not take responsibility for any loss or damage and does not provide insurance for any artwork entered in the exhibition. If you are interested in getting your own insurance, then you can find out more about this here: www.a-n.co.uk/news/improved-insurance-policy and here: www.artistsunionengland.org.uk/public-liability-artists-insurance.

Selling your artwork

Every artist has the option to sell their work. Please indicate the sale price of your work on the Entry Form or write NFS (not for sale). You will be told if your work is sold. All work must remain on display until the exhibition closes.

The Harris will take a 30% commission, please keep this in mind when pricing your work. For example, if your work sells for £30 you will receive £21. Payments to artists will be made directly to your chosen bank account by Preston City Council after the exhibition closes.

Collecting your artwork

All artworks will be available for collection on **Wednesday 6th May**, 10am – 4.30pm, **Thursday 7th May**, 5pm – 9pm and **Saturday 9th May**, 10am – 4pm.



Open Exhibition

Celebrating local creativity

2026

You must bring photographic proof of your identity (ID) to collect your work. If someone else is collecting your artwork on your behalf, they must bring proof of **your** ID.

The Harris cannot store artworks. If your artwork is not collected by the 9th May it will be donated to charity.

New for 2026

Workshops for the public led by you: The Harris Open team is excited to offer paid opportunities for artists to lead workshops during the exhibition. If you are interested in running a workshop, email the following information to **HarrisOpen2026@preston.gov.uk** using the subject heading **Artist-led Workshops**.

- A short description (no more than 100 words) telling us about your idea
- Any experience you might have (no more than 100 words)
- Who your workshop is aimed at, for example, young people, children, adults.

The deadline to do this is **Saturday 7th February**. You need to be over 16 to apply.

Press and Marketing: The Harris Open 2026 is a time to celebrate artists and creativity in Preston. We are asking artists to share information about their art and creativity, what inspires them, and the stories behind the artwork on display. Our marketing team will use this information on our website and social media adding a new and exciting aspect to the exhibition. This is your opportunity to shout about your art practice, share your passions about art, and inspire other people.

If you'd like to take part in this marketing, please include a short statement (no more than 100 words) on your Entry Form. Your signature on the entry form gives us permission to use this information. Please include your website, Instagram or other social media handles.

Pop-up Shop: This year we are offering exhibiting artists the opportunity to sell limited edition items. For example, this could be prints, postcards, jewellery, textiles, t-shirts and bags. We will not accept one-off artworks.



Open Exhibition

Celebrating local creativity

2026

If you are interested in this, email the following information to **HarrisOpen2026@preston.gov.uk** and use the subject heading **Harris Open Pop-Up shop** with the below details. The deadline to do this is **Sunday 1st February**.

- Your name/business name
- Items for sale and quantity (please list)
- Maximum of 3 colour images of your merchandise
- Price of merchandise

The Harris will take a 30% commission, so please keep this in mind when pricing your items. You need to be over 16 to apply.

Exhibition team

Lindsey McCormick (Fine Art Curator)

Kyra Milnes (Communities and Volunteers Officer)

Amelia Welbourne (Communities Assistant)

Email address: HarrisOpen2026@preston.gov.uk



The Harris, Market Square,
Preston, PR1 2PP



01772 905421



theharris@preston.gov.uk



theharris.org.uk