

LOUISA WATERFORD PRIZE 2026 - Past and Present

Please read info below before making your submission

The Louisa Waterford Prize Exhibition takes place at Ford and Etal once every two years. The inaugural event was held at Lady Waterford Hall at Ford Village in 2022.

The next, and third, Louisa Waterford Prize Exhibition takes place at Etal Village Hall, Ford and Etal, Northumberland, on Sunday May 24, 10.30am till 4pm.

The 2026 Prize theme is "Past and Present".

The work of up to 30 shortlisted finalists will be displayed during the day, with opportunities to meet some of them.

The winner and two runners-up will be selected by a panel of judges and announced at about 3.30pm at Etal on May 24.

There will also be a separate People's Favourite, voted for by visitors to the exhibition on our website and on the day (votes will be combined).

The exhibition of Prize submissions will be staged entirely at Etal, but the event will also include other arts' exhibitions, free demonstrations, displays and open studios at other venues across Ford, Etal and Heatherslaw, including exhibitions by two individual artists at Lady Waterford Hall.

The judging panel for 2026 includes: Award-winning North East artist/printmaker Alison Diamond Rogers; former BBC journalist, presenter and producer Chris Jackson and award-winning artist and teacher Mo Healy, who is artist bookmaker-in-residencies at Lady Waterford Hall and on Holy Island. Mo was also involved with The Tin Shed's first Louisa Waterford Prize event in 2022.

The 2026 Louisa Waterford Prize winner will receive a cash prize of £100 donated by Ford and Etal Estates and an opportunity to exhibit their winning work at the popular Hastings First Gallery in Coldstream for 4-6 weeks (at a time to suit themselves and in agreement with the Gallery).

The winner will also be offered one year free online Studio at The Tin Shed and an opportunity to exhibit and sell a selection of their work at a Tin Shed event of their choice as long as a space is available at desired event.

If event is already full (that year) an alternative event or future available date for preferred event will be offered.

The winning piece/s will also be featured on The Tin Shed website and across all associated social media sites. (The Tin Shed website currently receives around 1000 individual visitors a month and its combined social media sites have over 12,000 followers).

HOW TO ENTER

The theme of the 2026 Louisa Waterford Prize is “Past and Present” , exploring how past life and legacy can impact the present.

Louisa's life is an example of this – how her vision created a model village within a beautiful wild landscape – one of the first tourist attractions of its kind and how it remains largely unchanged today, still attracting and inspiring visitors and many local people whose livelihoods are influenced by her accomplishments, talent and her love of beautiful art and design.

The Prize is open to all categories. Accepted media include, but are not limited to: paintings, drawings, original prints, photography, sculptures, digitally produced artworks, mixed media constructions. We are looking for original art and craft not entered or exhibited previously at this event. Up to two separate pieces can be submitted per entrant. A single work can consist of numerous pieces, such as a triptych, please provide details and total measurements on form below.

Please provide measurements of all works (specify dimensions such as landscape or portrait) and provide full details of how you intend to display them (ie floor easel or table top or plinth – please note that artists must supply own floor and table-top easels or plinths for sculptures.

There is no hanging availability and all pieces are displayed in a pop-up style on easels and tables. (tables are provided).

Entrants must be over 18 yo.

Closing date for submissions has been extended to noon March 6 2026.

Shortlisted entries will be notified via email after this date and all work uploaded to The Tin Shed event page for display. A small payment will be required for successful submissions to help fund the event. **See details below.**

All shortlisted entries will be required to be dropped off at Etal Village Hall on day of the live exhibition, along with a suitable floor or table top easel or plinth, between 8.30am – 9.30am on Sunday May 24.

All work must be collected between 4pm and 5pm from Etal on Sunday May 24.

No work can be removed before 4pm.

Arrangements can be made for the winning work to be immediately transferred and exhibited at Hastings First Gallery at Coldstream (if it is more convenient for the winner and dependant on size of winning piece).

This will be discussed with winner at end of exhibition.

All accepted work will be uploaded and displayed on the Prize event page at www.thetinshed.co.uk after closing date on March 6 .

We aim to shortlist 20 – 30 pieces. All shortlisted work will remain displayed on The Tin Shed event page throughout 2026.

Submission charges: £15 per first piece up to 50cm wide and £10 for an additional piece of same size or smaller.

£20 per first piece 50cm to 120cm wide (max acceptable size 120cm) and £15 for

additional piece of similar size or smaller.
Applicants are limited to two submissions.

One submission may consist of related/connected pieces to consist as one single artwork (dependent on totally size).

Please provide details/measurements of work on submission form.

We will give consideration for submissions of larger works over 120cm for items such as furniture or sculpture, but please contact us first before applying as it will very much depend on size and scale of work and availability of space at live exhibition.

Email: info@thetinshed.co.uk

Payments must be made immediately upon notification of acceptance (see Submission charge details).

All payments are dependent on size and number of pieces and will be used to fund the event, pay for venues and advertising etc

There is also an opportunity for exhibitors to remain at the hall for a designated time to meet visitors (we can advertise this in advance if anyone wishes to do this).

There will also be separate exhibitions by two solo artists in rear room at Etal Village Hall and two in rear room at Lady Waterford Hall at part of the event. We will also have additional open arts studio events at Heatherslaw and at Ford village with artists/makers already based there.

There are opportunities for artists to stage free demonstrations at Etal during the exhibition, and/or paid for (advance booked directly with artist) workshops outdoors such as plein air painting or sketching as part of event. Please get in touch if you are interested. Artist-own gazebos for workshops and/or selling work may also be accommodated.

The judges will announce the winner and runners up just after 3.15pm on Sunday May 24.

All exhibited entries can be offered for sale during the event, but cannot be removed by customers until end of event.

Sales will be carried out directly with the artist (contact details can be left at hall) and no commission taken by The Tin Shed.

Artists will be required to provide contact information for potential buyers to contact them during the event.

Please fill in all required information on separate submission form and send it to info@thetinshed.co.uk with up to 3 images of your work/s and one image of yourself (optional).

Please send different angles or close ups of piece and ensure one image of your submission is full frame, 2D, with no frame or mount in image and no text on it.

Size of images for website and social media use ideally between 200kb – 500kb.