

PRESS RELEASE

Submissions open this week for Manchester Open Exhibition 2022



The Manchester Open Exhibition 2020 was the most popular in HOME's history. Pic credit: Jason Lock

Applications for artists to be part of the 2022 Manchester Open Exhibition will open on this Wednesday, 16 June.

Applications can be made via an online portal which will go live at 12 noon on Wednesday at homemcr.org/manchesteropen2022.

Submissions are open to all, including those who may already identify as artists and those who might not, working in any medium. It is free to submit work for consideration, although HOME encourages donations in order to support their outreach and engagement programme.

HOME

The deadline is 6pm on Friday, 17 September.

The first Manchester Open in 2020 was the most successful exhibition in HOME's history – with over 33,000 visitors enjoying 543 artworks by 451 artists. It was the first region-wide exhibition of its type to welcome entries from people of any background and level of experience, including established professionals, new and emerging talent, enthusiastic amateurs and first-time artists.

Over 2,000 people applied to be included in the first exhibition, with the final selection made by an independent panel consisting of art experts and community representatives.

HOME's curator Bren O'Callaghan, who created the exhibition, said: "As the most popular exhibition in the history of HOME, with over 33,000 visitors, we had no doubt the Manchester Open would return, now as a biannual celebration. The experience has been like drilling an oil well, only to be soaked by a sky-high fountain of regional talent; leading to multiple conversations and new commissions, all with artists we wouldn't have otherwise met.

"Although it's been an exceptionally challenging year, artistic expression has played a critical part in digesting and translating our experiences, from encouraging window posters to exchanging mail art, photographing the changing city skyline, live-stream life drawing or turning box bedrooms into home studios.

"The Manchester Open's purpose is to provide a platform and amplify opportunity for those living and working within the GM region, with visitors casting a resounding vote of approval. From the queue of 2,000 snaking around the block on our opening night, or those who snapped up over £20,000 of original artwork, now displayed in homes across the region and providing artists with an income during uncertain circumstances.

"I suspect we have loosened a rolling boulder that will continue to flatten a path for generations of emerging regional artists in the years ahead."

There will also be a return of the Manchester Open Awards – £2,000 bespoke bursaries that also include talent development support, delivered in partnership with Castlefield Gallery. The People's Choice Award, won in 2020 by George Fell for *Octopus*, will also return.

The submission window will close in September, with successful artists notified in October. The Manchester Open Exhibition 2022 will run from Friday 14 Jan to Sunday 27 March 2022.

[ENDS]



For more information, images or interview requests, please contact Kat Harrison-Dibbits, Head of Communication at HOME on 0161 212 3463 or email kat.harrison-dibbits@homemcr.org.

About HOME

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in 2015, HOME has welcomed over 2.9 million visitors to see thrilling theatre and dance shows, experience great independent films from across the world, dive into the new art in our galleries, relax in our café and browse our bookshop. We work with international and UK artists to produce extraordinary experiences, creating an exciting mix of thought-provoking drama, dance, film and contemporary visual art with a strong focus on international work, new commissions and talent development. Our ambition is to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, have fun and take risks. We want to explore what it means to be human today, and to share great new art with the widest possible audience. HOME has welcomed the following artists and more since opening: AL and AL, Rachel Maclean, Phil Collins, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, Larry Achiampong, Sophie Al-Maria, Noor Afsan Mirza & Brad Butler, John Walter & David Lynch. Upcoming exhibitions include the British Art Show (24 September 2020 until 10 January 2021). www.homemcr.org | @HOME_mcr | Facebook HOME_mcr

The Manchester Open Exhibition 2022 is supported by:



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