
Theme - Crop Diversity

The May 2025 exhibition will focus on and celebrate, biodiversity in the crops that have been closely associated with the human species over thousands of years. The theme is designed to draw attention to the vast variety of food and useful plants available, in contrast with the relatively few varieties currently used in mass cultivation.

Plants eligible for inclusion are those that have been cultivated for:

- food
- textiles
- building
- energy and
- medicine.

Currently, many heritage species and varieties are only cultivated in small quantities by specialist growers on a small scale. It is vital to promote this genetic diversity in a world challenged by a growing population and a changing climate.

The following guidance may help in your choice of subject however it is by no means definitive and if you are in doubt please do not hesitate to ask. Make sure you come to our Question & Answer webinars which will be advertised.

Exhibition Email : botanicalartworldwide@gmail.com

The key for this exhibition is choosing an interesting subject to showcase the vast range of plants, fungi and algae that have been associated with the human species in the British Isles for generations.

You may also like to grow your own subject so we have also included a list of some research sources and seed suppliers in this document.

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The following headings are designed to provide some guidance but the examples used are not definitive.

Heritage/Heirloom

“ Crops that are not used in modern, large scale monocultural agriculture. Crops chosen should have been in cultivation for a minimum of 50 years in the British Isles. “

Carrots, apples, tomatoes, potatoes, wheat, hops, lettuce, reeds, flax, willow, oak, linseed, plums

Wild Relatives

“ These wild species are the ancestors of cultivated crops, or are closely related species that have been used in plant breeding past and present. “

Sloes, greengages, wild cabbage, wild turnip, wild strawberry, sea carrot, bird cherry, wild asparagus

Ancient

“ Those crops that have been cultivated for hundreds or thousands of years in the same form. “

Barley, spelt wheat, emmer wheat, pea, hazel nuts, elderberries, willow, birch, wild oats, wild nettle, dandelion, seaweeds, primrose, foxglove, Valerian, lichens, woad

Research Resources

These resources are not definitive but provide a starting point for your research.

John Innes Centre	https://www.jic.ac.uk/	The John Innes Centre is an independent, international centre of excellence in plant science, genetics and microbiology. We are an independent, international centre of excellence in plant science, genetics and microbiology.
Rothamsted Research	https://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/	Rothamsted Research is a world-leading, non-profit research centre that focuses on strategic agricultural science to the benefit of farmers and society worldwide. Rothamsted Research is the oldest continually operating agricultural research station in the world.
UKRI UK Research and Innovation	https://gtr.ukri.org/	Search for Crop Diversity or Heritage Crops - there are many scientific papers and studies, possibly too technical for us but there may be some institutions that could advise or speak to us.
Natural History Museum	https://www.nhm.ac.uk/natureplus/blogs/science-news/2014/06/25/nhm-life-science-seminar-distributions-and-conservation-concerns-of-crop-wild-relatives-a-global-perspective.html	Website has some old articles on the NHM's "Crops Wild Relatives Initiative" to map and model the distributions of plant wild relatives and their potential insect pests.
Crop Diversity	https://www.cropdiversity.ac.uk/	Seems to be a resource for various research institutions, mainly Scottish.
Heritage Grain Trust	https://www.heritagegraintrust.org/ https://www.heritagegraintrust.org/what-are-heritage-grains	The Heritage Grain Trust (HGT) is a not-for-profit organisation formed to encourage the production and use of heritage grains.
NIAB	https://www.niab.com/	NIAB is at the forefront of the application of genetics, physiology, soil science, precision agronomy and data science to improve the yield, efficiency and resilience of crop production across the arable, forage and horticulture sectors.
British Hop Association	https://www.britishhops.org.uk/hop-breeding/	Need to contact them to find out how to get heritage varieties.
Kent National Fruit Collection	https://kentorchards.org.uk/heritage/	https://kentorchards.org.uk/heritage/story/ . Gives an overview of the orchards and there is a contacts page.

Seed Suppliers

For some fun and something different you may wish to grow your own subject.

Heritage Seed Library	https:// www.gardenorganic.org.uk/ what-we-do/the-heritage-seed- library	The Heritage Seed Library (HSL) maintains the national collection of heritage vegetables and aims to conserve vegetable varieties that are not widely available, sharing seed with our members to grow and enjoy.
Nicky's Nursery	https://www.nickys- nursery.co.uk/index.php/ vegetable-seeds-heirloom- vegetables-c-6_13_370	Seed merchant.
D T Brown Seeds	https:// www.dtbrownseeds.co.uk/ Vegetable-Seeds-1/Heritage- Heirloom-Vegetable-Seeds/	Seed merchant.
Plants of Distinction	https:// www.plantsofdistinction.co.uk/ heirloom-varieties	Seed merchant.
Dobies	https://www.dobies.co.uk/ vegetable-seeds/heritage- vegetable-seeds	Seed merchant.
SowSeeds	https://www.sowseeds.co.uk/ collections/heritage-seeds	Seed merchant.
UK Vegetable Gene Bank	https://warwick.ac.uk/ newsandevents/pressreleases/ uk_vegetable_genebank/	Affiliated to Warwick University : They hold an international collection of seeds for wild relatives and heritage varieties of commonly grown field vegetables
Ryton Organic Garden	https:// www.rytongardens.co.uk/	A Heritage Seed Library and usually grow some of their seeds every year.

References

Ancient Crops

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/salop/vol4/pp20-26>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/articles/history-healing-plants>

Wild relatives of crops in UK

<https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/31031>

Landraces

https://www.pgrsecure.bham.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/deliverables/D4.3_UK_landrace_conservation_strategy.pdf

Fruits:

<https://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/>

Heritage grains

https://growninengland.co.uk/giw_grower/heritage-grain-trust/

Books

Joan Morgan on apples and pears:

<https://www.fruitforum.net/>

The Lawsonian Collection. Synopsis of the Vegetable Products of Scotland in the Museum of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew.

<https://archive.org/details/synopsisvegetab00songooq>

The Agriculturalist's manual (1836)

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/165048#page/5/mode/1up>

Miller The gardeners dictionary (1768), 3 vols

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/541>

Libraries

Kew (book ahead)

<https://www.kew.org/science/collections-and-resources/collections/library>

RHS head library (book)

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/visit-the-libraries/lindley-library-london>

RHS garden libraries (just go)

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/visit-the-libraries/wisley-library>

Museum of English Rural Life, Reading

https://www.reading.ac.uk/Instits/im/the_collections/the_library.html

Theme - Crop Diversity

“The exhibition will focus on and celebrate, biodiversity in the crops that have been closely associated with the human species over thousands of years.”

The Association of Botanical Artists in collaboration with The Society of Botanical Artists the Birmingham Society of Botanical Artists, the Wales Society of Botanical Illustrators and the Eden Project Florilegium Society will develop and host a juried section of Botanical Art Worldwide (BAWW) Exhibition for 2025. The exhibition is an initiative of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA). Scotland will be managing and hosting their own exhibition.

The physical exhibition for the selected artwork will be held in the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) Gallery, Birmingham, U.K.

The following criteria are specific to the British section of the Exhibition and give you the key information required to submit your finished work. It is essential that these criterion are met in full. Artwork will be selected for the physical exhibition by a distinguished panel of judges and all submitted artwork will also exhibited online to an international audience.

If you have any questions please contact the Steering Committee by email as soon as possible so we can clarify any point. If you are not a British resident then look out for your countries information which will be published on the ASBA worldwide website.

A number of online Question and Answer sessions will be run with details to be published on the British exhibition webpage. If you intend to submit work for this Exhibition make sure you visit the web page on a regular basis. If you have not already registered your interest for the British section of the Exhibition you can do so from the web page. Once we have your contact details we will keep you up to date as more information becomes available.

Exhibition Date : **May 2025**

Exhibition Location : **RBSA Gallery - Birmingham - United Kingdom**

Exhibition Page : **www.assocbotanicalartists.com/baww-2025**

Exhibition Email : **botanicalartworldwide@gmail.com**

British - Exhibition Criteria

Criterion	Notes
<p>Residency You must be a resident of the United Kingdom (excluding Scotland)</p>	<p>The UK must be your primary residence. You can only submit work in one country.</p>
<p>Pieces Artists can submit a maximum of TWO original entries.</p>	<p>Do not submit work that has been previously exhibited.</p>
<p>Entry Fee A non-refundable fee of £22 will apply for each piece of artwork submitted.</p>	<p>This applies to all artwork submitted regardless of the judging outcome and will be used to contribute to the exhibition costs. You will be sent an invoice after you have submitted your work.</p>
<p>Theme The submitted artwork must meet the Exhibition theme.</p>	<p>See detailed Theme outline.</p>
<p>Botanical Art Your artwork meets the definition of botanical art / illustration BUT can include fungi, lichens and algae.</p>	<p>Botanical art in the broadest sense = the '<i>representational</i>' art of plants.</p> <p><i>Representational</i> meaning relating to or denoting art, which aims to depict an accurate physical appearance of things.</p>
<p>Imaging Artwork must be professionally scanned or photographed to ensure the best quality reproduction of the original.</p>	<p>Your digital image should reflect your original artwork. Artists will be asked to resubmit their work if their image does not meet this criterion.</p>
<p>Dimensions Artwork with the following TWO dimensions only will be accepted.</p>	<p>Finished outside mount dimensions of either :</p> <p>I. 50 x 60 cm which gives a painting area of 36 x 46 (with a minimum of a 7 cm wide border).</p> <p>or</p> <p>II. 40 x 50 cm which gives a painting area of 26 x 36 cm (with a minimum of a 7cm wide border).</p> <p>See Figure 1.</p>

Criterion	Notes
<p>Medium Can be watercolour, coloured pencil, graphite, acrylic, oils, pen & ink, acrylic ink, gouache or a combination of these. No photographs or 3D artwork.</p>	<p>If you are uncertain of the medium you would like to use then contact the Steering Committee as soon as possible for clarification.</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>A descriptive name for your work. This is NOT the scientific name(s) of the plant(s).</p>
<p>Story A very important element of your submission.</p>	<p>Tell us about your chosen plant (s) with respect to the theme in a maximum of 100 words (600 characters). Here are a few helpful tips/pointers when writing your 100-word story.</p> <p>It could be something about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The origin of the plant • The source of your specimen • Reasons for choosing this plant • Notable differences from similar species or varieties • Future-proofing attributes • Any cultural significance • Interesting or unusual stories about this plant
<p>Scientific name (s)</p>	<p>You must include the scientific name for the subject (s) of your artwork including the variety. This does not need to be the Title of your work</p>
<p>Scale Bar</p>	<p>You must add a scale bar to your work if you have different size elements on your image.</p>
<p>Confirm That you own all the rights, title and interest in the work and have not used any work copyrighted by others in its creation.</p>	<p>You will be asked to acknowledge this when you submit your work.</p>
<p>Confirm That it does not infringe on the rights of any other person or entity.</p>	<p>You will be asked to acknowledge this when you submit your work.</p>
<p>Online Exhibition</p>	<p>All submitted artwork that meet the criteria will be exhibited online in the Association of Botanical Artists Gallery.</p>

Criterion	Notes
Insurance	Artwork insurance is the responsibility of the individual artist.
Judging	A two stage judging process will take place. A first - stage digital judging and if you are accepted to the next stage of judging you will be requested to send your mounted work for the second - stage physical judging.
Sale of artwork	<p>You will be asked if you would like your work available for sale when you submit your digital entry and the price you are requesting.</p> <p>There will be a set minimum price of £250 but you artwork can be priced higher than this.</p>

Artwork Dimensions

For the first judging phase ALL artwork will be submitted as a digital image ONLY. Artists will be informed of the submission process closer to the submission date.

All artwork submitted must meet the following finished mount (not framed) dimensions.

When planning your composition make sure it is for either of these two sizes and there is a *minimum* 7cm border for each size. Your border can be larger than 7cm.

Those artists selected for the second judging phase will be informed by email and they will be invited to submit their original artwork mounted as shown in Figure 1 - but **NOT** framed.

NOTE: The mount board should be white or off white and the recommended board is similar to either :

- Daler-Rowney Snow White (054) or
- Daler-Rowney Cumulus Cloud (404)

All artwork chosen by the judging panel to be exhibited in the gallery will be framed and hung by the exhibition organisers.

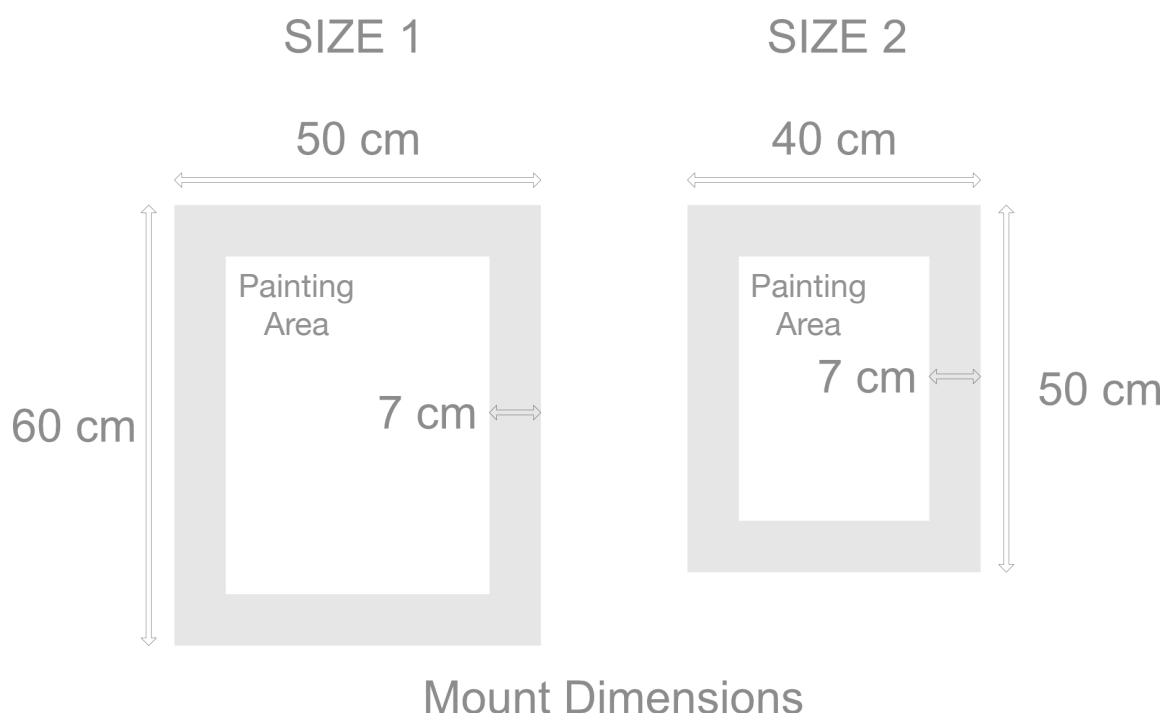


Figure 1. Artwork mount dimensions.

Key Dates:

Part I - Submission of Artwork - Digital Copies for Initial Judging

All artwork will initially be submitted as a digital image to the exhibition website. Access to the submission page will be released on 1st October 2024.

Digital Submissions Open :	Tuesday 1st October 2024
Digital Submissions Close :	Friday 10th January 2025
Digital Judging Decision :	Friday 24th January 2025

Part II - Submission of Physical Artwork for Final Selection

Selected artists will be invited to submit their mounted original artwork for the next judging stage. Artwork will be mounted following the instructions listed in Figure 1 above. Forty pieces of original work will then be selected for the official British (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) submission for the BAWW - 2025 Exhibition.

The remaining original pieces that do not form the official British entry but reached the second judging phase, may also be displayed in the Exhibition depending on the final numbers and available exhibition space. All this artwork will be added to an Exhibition catalogue that will be available to purchase.

Physical Judging Call :	Wednesday 28th January 2025
Mounted Artwork Deadline :	Friday 28th February 2025
Judges Final Selection for BAWW :	3rd and 4th March 2025
Successful Artist's Informed :	7th March 2025

Part III - The Exhibition

The chosen, original artworks will be exhibited at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artist's Gallery, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Exhibition Opens to the Public :	Tuesday May 13th 2025
Official Exhibition Opening :	Sunday May 18th 2025
Exhibition Closes :	Saturday May 24th 2025
Collection of Unsold Artwork :	To be confirmed

Exhibition of Artwork

In addition to the selected artwork that will be displayed in the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists Gallery, all of the original submitted digital artwork that meet the criteria will be exhibited in the [Association of Botanical Artists online Gallery](#).

Sale of Artwork

Exhibited artwork can be for sale, this will be indicated by the artist on the submission form. The artist will also be required to add the requested price with a set minimum of £250.

The Exhibition Steering Committee will NOT take a commission for any works sold either from the physical exhibition or as a result of a request from a viewing of the online digital exhibition.

If an enquiry for a commission is received by RBSA gallery staff during the exhibition or by gallery staff within 30 days after its take-down, the RBSA will charge a 10% administration fee plus standard rate VAT on that charge. If an enquiry to the RBSA is made more than 30 days after the exhibition finishes, the RBSA will charge 35% commission, plus standard rate VAT on that charge.

Unsold artwork will be available for collection after the exhibition officially closes. Details will be confirmed closer to the Exhibition.

We are really looking forward to your submissions and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

The BAWW - 2025 Steering Committee