

UKCPS Silver Annual Open Exhibition 2026

To be held at the Mall Galleries, The Mall, London, SW1

This is an open exhibition; submission is open to all living artists, aged 18 or over. The artist must demonstrate compositional and drawing skills and the ability to use colour pencil.

Terms and Conditions of Entry

Eligible

- Each work submitted **MUST** comprise at least 50% dry colour pencil (i.e. wood-cased, and wax- or oil-based colour pencil, including watercolour pencil if used dry). This definition excludes pastel pencils. See website <link> for examples of accepted pencils.
- The remaining 50% of the work may be in any other medium, including any water or solvent used.
- All work must be original in concept, design, and execution, not copied.

Ineligible

- Use of an individual's image without that individual's permission, in accordance with UK privacy laws.
- Any work shown in any previous UKCPS exhibition.

The Society has the right to refuse to accept works not meeting all the conditions set out above. In the event of a challenge, the artist must provide evidence that their work is in full compliance. The Society may refuse to exhibit work that is considered not to meet the above entry criteria.

Timetable

Closing date for entries: 25th January 2026

Notification of selection: up to 15th February 2026

Delivery of Artwork to Mall Galleries: 11th March 2026

Exhibition open to the Public: 17th to 21st March 2026

Collection of Artwork from Mall Galleries: 25th March 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ARTISTS

Submissions

Artists must complete an online entry form.

Artists must include title of picture, size of work unframed in centimetres and sale price, including 40% commission, on the entry form. This information will be used on the gallery labels and catalogue so must be correct as changes cannot be made subsequently.

One Not For Sale (NFS) entry is allowed per artist; additional work must be for sale.

No submissions will be accepted after 23.59 GMT 25th January 2026.

Artists may submit a maximum of 5 entries from which up to two works per artist may be selected.

Images of Your Work

Have the image files of your artwork ready to be uploaded to the entry form.

JPG or PNG files only; min. size 1MB, max size 5MB.

The filename for each image **must** include your name and title of the work - eg John_Smith_View_of_Venice.

Poorly presented images, especially those that are out of focus, badly lit or pixelated will affect your chances of success. Each entry will be judged on your submitted image(s) alone. It is therefore very important to represent your work as best you can.

If photographing your work, it should be unframed and upright, make sure it is not at an angle. There is plenty advice available on the internet.

You must not use filters or enhance your image, using software such as Photoshop, beyond the basic resizing/cropping of your image for online submission, and editing colour to ensure an accurate and truthful representation of the original artwork. These images may be used for publicity and social media, so quality is very important.

Watermarks and similar markings should be removed. Signatures on your work are allowed.

Entry Fees

UKCPS Members: £10 per entry (members must pay a fee for all entries)

Non-Members: £25 per entry

Online payment will be available on submission of the entry form. Alternatively, payment can be made via bank transfer or cheque; details available on request.

All fees are non-refundable. Entries are not complete until payment has been received.

Use of Reference Materials

All work should be your original composition and execution. All the following are NOT acceptable.

- Work copied from any copyrighted or published materials.
- Work in which the primary subject has been copied directly from someone else's photograph, even with permission. This includes images from online free-reference sites. Such photos may be used only for incidental compositional elements, not as the main focus of the artwork.
- Work created using AI-generated images for reference.
- Reproductions such as prints or giclees of artwork.
- Any printed or digitally produced image as part of the artwork
- Alteration of artwork after submission of entry.
- Collaborative works executed by more than one artist, including classroom projects and exercises. You may, however, submit artwork of your own design which was worked on in a class or critiqued by others, as long as you are the primary creative force.

Selection Process

No more than 2 pictures per artist will be shown, irrespective of how many they enter.

The pictures to be exhibited are chosen by an independent selection panel, who will be asked to select works to produce a varied exhibition showing the full range of capabilities of the colour pencil medium. All submitted images will be presented to the selection panel anonymously. No personal data, including name, will be given during the selection.

Artists will be advised by email whether they have been selected or not by 15th February 2026.

The award winners will be selected by a different judge once the exhibition is hung.

The decision of the judges is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

If selected works arrive damaged, with unacceptable framing, size discrepancies from the original submission, or not as shown online, these will be withdrawn and will need to be collected from Mall Galleries by the artist at their expense.

Framing

All work should be framed with a wood or wood composite frame, to a professional standard and sealed at the back.

Frames should be plain and simple with a minimum depth of 15mm to allow for attachment of mirror plate fixings at the gallery.

All fittings and fixings should be removed from the frame as mirror plates will be fixed to the frame by technicians at the gallery.

Metal frames, unprotected glass edges and clip frames are inadmissible.

Work may be refused if framed incorrectly.

Delivery and Collection

It is the artist's responsibility to arrange delivery and collection of their pictures to and from the gallery.

Only submit work that can be delivered to the gallery on the hand-in date and is available for display throughout the exhibition.

Works should be delivered and collected on the specified receiving and collection days via the gallery's rear entrance at Mall Galleries, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5BD.

If you are unable to deliver or collect your work, you may send another person on your behalf – this may include an art courier (see below).

Artists are responsible for the costs of delivery and collection.

Artwork Delivery Date - 10am 11th March 2026

Works should be delivered unwrapped with the relevant form and labels, which are downloadable upon notification of selection.

All packaging must be taken away at the point of delivery.

Collection Date - 10am 25th March 2026

We are unable to wrap works or provide wrapping for works being returned.

Any uncollected works will be removed from the gallery after the collection day and stored by an independent courier company at the artist's expense.

If works are not collected within 12 months of the collection day, the gallery will be entitled to destroy, sell, or otherwise dispose of the works without consent, prior notification, or compensation to the artist.

We strongly recommend the use of specialist art couriers.

Overseas Artists

Artists outside the UK are welcome to enter but they must be aware of the costs involved. Overseas artists will be liable for all carrier costs, tariffs and taxes.

Publicity

It is a condition of entry that the artist grants permission for the Society's use of the accepted images for publicity and promotion for purposes wholly related to UKCPS.

UKCPS Signature Status

Members of the Society who have artwork selected for the exhibition will qualify towards UKCPS signature status subject to the artwork being hung at the exhibition.

Entry Form

Once you have read and understood the above rules and are ready to complete the entry form, click/tap below. Ensure you have the following ready before completing the entry form:

- a. Image files (filenames to include your name and picture title)
- b. Title of your picture(s)
- c. Picture dimensions (Height x Width in cm)
- d. Sale Price
- e. Payment card for fees

[Link to Entry Form](#)