

Information for prospective artists



The Chalk Gallery Concept

The Chalk Gallery is a collaborative project which has run successfully for more than fifteen years based upon 21 artists working together as a cooperative to promote and sell each other's work, run the venue and pay the bills.

The gallery showcases its professional artists from Sussex and surrounding areas in a permanent space in Lewes. The premises accommodate approximately 70 works, in a friendly, relaxed but professionally presented space. We also have an online shop to showcase and sell our members' work.

As well as exhibiting at 4 North Street, Chalk aims to promote the work and the artists in the wider community of Lewes and Sussex, organising events, collaborating with local businesses and mounting exhibitions in a variety of venues. These have included "Chalk at the Towner" in Eastbourne, the Brighton Art Fair and many other external shows. We organise regular Private Views and participate in Lewes Artwave. The PR team are active in securing high profile publicity for the gallery and its artists.

Artists pay £55 a month and commit to a minimum of six month's membership. Attendance at business meetings and stewarding the gallery one day in every three weeks are essential requirements. These aspects of membership are currently under review due to COVID-19 pandemic, but one of our recruitment team will explain current arrangements.

Additionally, members are expected to undertake a specific role/ responsibility for at least one aspect of running the business and sharing the workload involved in running an artist led gallery i.e. Social Media, PR, Hanging team, Gallery maintenance.

Here's how it works: Essential Criteria for applicants

- Please note that computer/ IT skills are an essential requirement to being a member.
- Applicants must live within one-hour maximum travelling time of Lewes.
- Members cannot exhibit or have their work represented in another venue/gallery in Lewes.

If you are interested in applying to join, please complete the Artists Submission Form and email it with your CV, Artist's Statement and at least six clear JPEG images of your work (images must be no bigger than 500 KB each) to:

submissions.chalkgallery@outlook.com

Please nominate works that you think would be appropriate to exhibit and sell at Chalk. If you work in a variety of media you may be chosen to show only one of your disciplines at the gallery. If you work in both 2D and 3D we would ask that you nominate one only. An indication of your prices and size of work is helpful in your submission, and it is also expected that you have visited the gallery.

1. Let us know of any skills, such as digital marketing, IT and graphic design you would be able to bring to our organisation.

2. The Chalk Artists consider your application and how both you and your work would "fit" into the gallery. If you are successful at this stage, you will be invited to attend an interview. The Recruitment Panel usually consists of five

Chalk Artists and is held at the gallery- date and time to be arranged.

- You will need to bring a portfolio of original work, consisting of at least six original pieces completed recently and presented as they would be displayed in the gallery i.e. framed, mounted, strung and priced.

Accepted artists will be invited to join as soon as possible or when a space becomes vacant.

Basic criteria

- High quality, affordable contemporary art works – 2D and 3D incorporating a balance of styles and media.
- All works should be original, by the 'hand of the artist' – (reproduction prints are not acceptable, except in the browsers).
- Fee of £55 pcm, for wall (1m wide x 1.5m high) / plinth display space, plus browser space, to be paid by 'standing order' agreement.
- Sales Commission of 20% is taken and reinvested in promotional and marketing expenditure. Chalk Gallery is non-profit making and artist led.
- The Registration fee is £100, refundable with termination of membership by agreement with the gallery.
- Resignations from Chalk require a full hang (currently 9 weeks) prior notice or the registration fee £100 is forfeited.
- We only sell our own work, with the exception of Guest artists. Artists steward the gallery independently – on the same day once every 3 weeks. (An induction is provided and a mentor).
- Every 9 weeks there is a new hang of all work. Work may not be rehung in the gallery for a year once it has been exhibited.
- Each artist has the opportunity of having a special "Featured Artist" slot where their work is shown in the window for 3 weeks and receives extra publicity.
- Each artist will be responsible for insuring their own work. Public Liability Insurance will be covered by the gallery.

Guest Artists

We also offer opportunities to exhibit as a Guest Artist, by invitation. Guest artists exhibit at Chalk for 9 weeks, with a page on the Chalk website, social media publicity and inclusion in the newsletter, as well as benefiting from Chalk Gallery's reputation and other advertising.

There is a fixed fee of £200 with 20% sales commission.

No involvement in running the gallery is required. Applications are welcome and images will also need to be provided – as in the essential criteria details.

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