

BRITISH PAVILION VENICE 2024 ARTIST NOMINATIONS

**THE BRITISH COUNCIL COMMISSION
AT THE 60TH INTERNATIONAL ART
EXHIBITION – LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA**

1. About the British Council

The British Council has been responsible for the British Pavilion at the International Art and Architecture Exhibitions of La Biennale di Venezia since 1937, showcasing the best of the UK's artists, architects, designers and curators. These exhibitions, and the British Council's Venice Fellowships initiative introduced in 2016, help make the British Pavilion a major platform for discussion about contemporary art and architecture.

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall, including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and an executive non-departmental public body. For more information on us please visit britishcouncil.org

2. The Invitation

Every two years, the British Council commissions an artist to represent the United Kingdom at the International Art Biennale in Venice, Italy.

Sonia Boyce OBE RA, who represented the United Kingdom at the 59th Art Biennale in 2022, was awarded the prestigious Golden Lion for Best National Participation at La Biennale di Venezia 2022.

The artist selected for the 60th Art Biennale in 2024 will be required to create new work for exclusive display at the British Pavilion which is a platform for showcasing the innovation, ingenuity and diversity of the British contemporary art scene. The British Council will work with the successful artist to produce the exhibition within the British Pavilion.

We are now inviting organisations and individuals from the UK's visual arts sector to nominate an artist (or collective) to represent the UK in 2024. The nominee will be required to create a dynamic, all-inclusive work of art for the British Pavilion that would be very much 'of and for our time'. The past three years have had a momentous impact on global communities in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its wider effects on mental health and wellbeing, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the ever-increasing climate emergency and the artist selected should be someone who can respond to both time and place.

Please submit your nomination via the online form on the British Council's Venice webpage: <https://venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org/venice-2024-artist-nominations>.

The deadline for submissions is Sunday 13 November 2022, 23.59 (GMT).

The successful artist will be announced in early 2023 and selected based on the advice of a panel of visual art specialists from across the UK.

3. Who can nominate

This invitation is extended to publicly funded UK-based arts organisations and also to independent curators, programmers or producers who have curated or programmed exhibitions in the UK public sector within the past five years.

We encourage you to discuss your nomination with colleagues to ensure the widest possible consultation at all levels but we request that you propose just one name per organisation or individual.

4. Brief for Nominations

Below are some broad criteria to inform your artist nominations:

- a. The British Council takes a broad view of what 'British' means. Artists don't need to have been born in the UK, or to currently live or work in the UK, to exhibit at the British Pavilion. They do, however, need to be strongly associated with British art and have made a significant impact or contribution to the British art scene
- b. The proposed artist should have a UK public profile and must have exhibited at a publicly funded organisation in the UK at least twice in their career and at least once within the last five years. However, they should be someone who would potentially benefit from the international exposure that Venice offers.
- c. The exhibition will be solo rather than group but collectives, groups or duos, who work together as part of their practice, are admissible for selection
- d. Previous representation of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland for the Venice Art Biennale, collateral events or any other National Pavilion, does not disqualify any artist from being selected. However, the artist selected to represent the UK for the 2024 Venice Biennale will not be able to take part in other National Participations or Collateral Events at the same edition of the Biennale
- e. You may only submit one nomination.

Nominations will be presented to a panel of visual art specialists from across the UK to select the artist for 2024 and the chosen artist will be announced in early 2023.

5. Application process and submission requirements

Nominations should be submitted via the [online form](#). The online form does not support saving and returning to question responses, so you are advised to create your responses offline and submit the form once complete.

We ask that each submission responds to the following questions:

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- a. How would you say this artist represents the very best possibilities of innovation and diversity in the UK visual art sector? (maximum 250 words)
 - b. What makes their work resonate and be of a particular contemporary relevance to today? (maximum 250 words)
 - c. How would this artist benefit from the opportunity to exhibit at the Venice Biennale? For example, as far as you are aware, does this artist have an international profile or have they had a solo exhibition of their work outside of the UK? (maximum 250 words)
 - d. Please cite two significant presentations of the artist's work in a UK public venue, at least one of which must have taken place in the past five years. Please add any relevant additional information to illustrate the importance of a particular exhibition for the artist's oeuvre or development (maximum 250 words)
 - e. Please add any awards or press reviews which further evidence their public profile.

The deadline for nominations is **Sunday 13 November 2022, 23.59.**

6. FAQs

Who qualifies as a UK artist?

An artist who was either born in or lives and works in the UK or who is strongly associated with British art and has made a significant impact or contribution to the British art scene.

What is our definition of 'publicly funded' and 'public sector'?

A UK-based, non-profit organisation that receives national, local government or Arts Council (NPO) funding.

Why is it that only a publicly funded arts organisation or an independent curator can nominate?

We value the expertise and knowledge of those in the art sector. Through their work with artists, they are best placed to put forward nominations.

Public sector organisations and curators also share our values and are impartial cultural commentators.

Please note that we are unable to accept nominations from those with a commercial interest in the sale of work by the artists nominated.

7. Background

La Biennale di Venezia

With up to 500,000 international visitors each year, the Venice Biennale is one of the longest running cultural festivals in the world. It is renowned for setting new global trends and launching the international careers of many pioneering artists and architects. The Biennale presents an unparalleled opportunity for international cultural and political networking, and offers a unique platform, bringing together leading artists and curators from around the world. It is a remarkable opportunity to demonstrate the UK's strength in art and architecture.

For more information about La Biennale di Venezia, visit: www.labiennale.org/en

The British Pavilion



The Commission will be shown at the British Pavilion which is located in the Giardini, the main site for the national presentations of the Venice Biennale. The British Council has been responsible for the British Pavilion since 1937 and is renowned for commissioning ground-breaking projects of the highest calibre, promoting the best of British visual art and architecture.

The British Pavilion is a listed building, which means we are not permitted to undertake extensive structural alterations. Originally built as the tea-room for the public gardens, it dates from 1897 and consists of six galleries, five of which are of a relatively domestic scale.

Find out more about the British Pavilion and our previous exhibitions:

www.britishcouncil.org/venicebiennale

www.britishcouncil.org

8. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The British Council has a strong commitment to equality, inclusion and diversity. We are a disability confident employer and aim to create opportunities and reduce barriers for everyone, particularly under-represented groups. Artist nominations for the British Council Commission should be aligned with this commitment.

9. Clarification Questions

Should you have any clarification questions about the nomination process and the Commission, please contact us at british.pavilion@britishcouncil.org. All enquiries should be made by **Friday 28 October 2022, 23.59**.

10. Resources

For more information about the British Pavilion's previous exhibitions and Venice Fellowships initiative, visit: www.britishcouncil.org/venicebiennale

For more information about the Venice Biennale, visit: www.labiennale.org/en

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