



2020 NEAP Newcastle Emerging Artist Prize

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WANTING TO ENTER?**

Make what you love. Judging will always be subjective and you can't second guess what people will respond to, especially given you don't know what else has been entered and whether your work will stand out that particular year. Megan McCarthy, who won the prize in 2018, had entered 3 previous times and not even made it to the finals. There are 3 judges from quite different backgrounds coming together to make decisions. Entering prizes and being rejected is part of being an artist but you can always learn a lot from the process.

2. **HOW DO THE JUDGES MAKE THEIR DECISIONS?**

Your work will be judged independently of any other work. Is it innovative, accomplished; does it demonstrate a good use of materials; is it risky, boundary pushing? Do you demonstrate a balance of technical skill and expression? A balance between material and subject?

3. **HOW IMPORTANT IS THE ARTIST STATEMENT AND HOW TO WRITE IT?**

Your artist statement generally won't be read until the final round. Having said that, it could be the thing that prompts the judges to choose your work, because the artist statement can show that you have succeeded in achieving what you set out to achieve. Keep it pithy, have someone read over it, and make sure it reflects your work. Take out any extra fluff, and anything that may confuse.

4. **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GETTING AN AWARD IN THIS PRIZE?**

The benefit is that it gives you the freedom to create what you love for a year, without worrying about whether your work will sell. It gives you the space to explore your practice and take risks you otherwise might not.

5. **WHAT IS THE GENERAL TIMELINE?**

Work needs to be delivered to NAS on either **Thursday 8th or Friday 9th October between 12 and 6pm**. Late works unfortunately will not be considered. The finalists will be announced on social media on Tuesday October 13th and the winners announced at the opening night, Friday, October 16th.

6. **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

A condition of entry is that all works **must be for sale**, and available for the exhibition period (Thursday 15th October to Sunday 25th October 2020).



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7. HOW SHOULD THE WORK BE DELIVERED?

On the day of submission, bring in your two works, 2 or 3 pre-filled forms and your entry money (cash). Have your work wrapped nicely, with the info taped to the back. Make sure the back of your work is also signed. If your work is on paper, you could write on archival paper and attach it to the back of your work using archival tape (or a paperclip). Many artists forget to measure their work, so don't forget to include the height, width, and depth on the back of your information sheet. You will also need to include your name, mobile, email, title of work, medium, size, and price (inclusive of commission). Use D hooks roughly 5cm from the top of your work (if your work is very small you'll need to adjust this to be a smaller measurement) and also attach a hanger that won't hurt anyone picking it up (judge or buyer).

The other thing you will need to include on the back of your work are instructions as to how to hang/display it. The judges will not see your work hung, but the person displaying your work for the panel will look for instructions on the back and approximate the manner in which you would like it to be displayed. For example, if you are submitting ceramics you could draw a diagram that shows how you would like them to be arranged. Alternatively, you can include written instructions, i.e. '2cm between the two panels.' Finally, you could also include a photo of your preferred set up (being aware that size restrictions may mean it is not possible to display your work exactly as you would like).

It is also always helpful to have an arrow near the top of your work and a note that reads 'this way up.' This is especially crucial for abstract pieces, as you may be disappointed by the guesswork of the hangers!

Finally, if your work is on paper and you have a particular preference for how it is hung – magnets, pins, something see through – include with your application the hanging materials, as well written specifications for how you want them used. Otherwise, the curators will do their best and hang them in the most professional manner.