

GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION OF RE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 2026

Important Dates

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **Monday 17 November 2025, 12 noon**

SHORTLISTED ARTISTS FROM DIGITAL SELECTION WILL BE NOTIFIED: **Friday 12 December 2025**

WORK SEND-IN FOR SHORTLISTED ARTISTS: **Saturday 31 January 2026, 11am - 6pm**

RESULTS & WORK COLLECTION: **Sunday 1 February 2026, 4 - 6pm & Monday 2 February 11am – 1pm**

Why join the RE?

The Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers (RE) was formed in 1880 to seek recognition for and to promote the value of printmaking as an art in its own right. Membership is open to artist-printmakers of the highest order. To this day it continues to promote original printmaking in all its forms, widen the knowledge and understanding of printmaking as a process, whilst also providing its members with artistic opportunities.

The Society shares its home at Bankside Gallery, in London, with the Royal Watercolour Society in an association that has lasted more than one hundred and thirty years. Each year Members are invited to submit two works for inclusion in the Society's major annual exhibition at Bankside Gallery and there are a number of opportunities to show in joint exhibitions at Bankside Gallery and elsewhere.

Demonstrations and lectures are held as part of the education programme accompanying exhibitions, fulfilling the Society's status as an educational charity. The RE is run by its Members, all of whom are expected to take an active role in furthering the interests of the Society.

Since 1911, full fellows of the Society have been entitled to use the post-nominals 'RE'. Newly elected Members, being Associate Members, are entitled to use 'ARE' after their name.

Eligibility

Artists who work in any printmaking media, including digital printmaking, are invited to apply for membership. Successful candidates invariably are those who are outstanding in all aspects of their work as practising professional artist-printmakers.

The RE is an educational charity and promotes the value of original printmaking. All members' work must be in a single strictly limited edition, or unique monoprints. Reproduction prints are not accepted, and artists who produce reproduction prints of their original prints would not be eligible for membership.

There is no limit on the number of new Members to be chosen each year for election, nor are particular qualifications required of candidates, but it should be noted that the Council will be looking for certain significant qualities in candidates including:

- A high degree of individuality, accomplishment and commitment in the art of printmaking.
- Agreement to participate on a regular basis in exhibitions and assist with the Society's work.

The standard of work required to gain Membership is high and a number of those who have gone on to become valued Members of the Society did not succeed on their initial application. The Society draws from a broad range of printmakers with diverse tastes and practices. Changes to the selection committee mean that rejection one year does not preclude selection on another occasion.

The Election Process

The next annual election of Associate RE Members (AREs) will begin with a shortlist of artists selected from the digital applications. Only shortlisted artists will be asked to send in work physically to Bankside Gallery for the RE Council to view in person.

Election is by majority vote in a secret ballot of the RE Council. Polling takes place following a careful consideration of each applicant's prints, supporting material and artist statement (see below).

Online Application Form

Complete your application online by **12 noon on Monday 17 November 2025**.

- Please complete all relevant sections. Do not send any additional information or CVs, only fields completed on the application form will be viewed.
- You should submit **eight images of unframed and unmounted prints and six images of aspects of your practice as an artist other than finished prints. (eg. Drawings or other preliminary work)**. If shortlisted you will be invited to send in the physical work. All work submitted must have been made by the applicant within the past **three** years. Images should be in JPEG format, size max 1-2MB each.
- Details of each work submitted – title and year made, medium, dimensions (paper size), and edition size of prints.
- Details of artistic education, courses, training or teaching. Exhibitions and work in collections. Other awards or society memberships.
- Artist statement of up to 300 words.
- **The submission fee is £50 and must be paid to complete your online application.**

Notification of results of digital selection and shortlisted artists

- You will be notified by **Friday 12 December** if you have been successful or unsuccessful in the digital selection.
- Shortlisted artists are then invited to send their work to the gallery for the Council to view.

Shortlisted artists sending in work

- The send-in day is **Saturday 31 January 2026** between **11am** and **6pm**. You should submit your folio of work to Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, London SE1 9JH. Work arriving by courier can arrive on Friday 30 January 11am – 6pm as couriers may not work on weekends.
- The work should be delivered unpacked by the artist (or their agent), in one substantial portfolio, clearly labelled on the outside with the candidate's name and address. It should not be left with additional packing material after delivery.
- Great care should be taken to present the work so that it is uniformly displayed and easily accessible.
- The prints and drawings **must not be** mounted as the professionalism with which the work has been made must be visible, ie. borders etc.
- They may be interleaved with tissue or slotted into plastic sleeves from which they can be easily removed, but NOT wrapped or sealed.
- Sketchbooks should not include any loose pages as they may become detached from the book, and the artist's name and date range of the contents should be clearly marked on the cover of the book.
- The number, title, and process should be clearly written in pencil with the artist's name and the date made, on the reverse of each work.
- All work exhibited with the RE and included in your portfolio must be signed and numbered on the front of the pieces unless there is a compelling and unavoidable case for doing otherwise.

Please note: Failure to adhere to the rules of submission may mean your application will be disqualified.

DISCLAIMER

Great care will be taken in handling and inspecting applicants' work, but neither the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers nor Bankside Gallery can take responsibility for any damage to or loss of works submitted. Submission for this election implies acceptance of this disclaimer and those who are concerned are advised to insure their work against all risks.

Overseas Artists

Artists applying from abroad may submit and collect portfolios by courier. Alternatively, you may send a representative based in the UK to deliver and collect the work, in which case the regulations above apply. **If a representative is collecting your work, please send an email ahead of time with the representative's name to info@re-printmakers.com, and ensure your representative brings photo ID with them as they will be asked for this before we release your work to them.** The work should ideally be packed flat but may be sent in a strong tube, to arrive by **6pm on Saturday 31 January**.

It is the artist's responsibility to arrange collection of the portfolio. Bankside Gallery cannot provide any packing materials for the return journey, so the portfolio needs to be packed in such a way as to be easily and securely re-packable after inspection.

Election Results and Collection of work

All work must be collected on **Sunday 1 February 4 - 6pm** or **Monday 2 February** between 11am and 1pm.

Results will be given by email by end of **Monday 2 February**.

If the work remains uncollected after these dates, it will be put into professional storage, for which the artist must pay and arrange for collection.

What happens if I am successfully elected as an Associate Member?

Newly elected Associate Members will be required to donate one of the prints submitted for the election process, which will be chosen and removed by Council during the election. This work will be added to the RE's Diploma Collection.

The Diploma Collection is of considerable historical importance, containing Members' works dating from 1880. The copyright of the Diploma Work remains with the artist during his/her lifetime and thereafter with the artist's estate; however the image may be reproduced in any context for the benefit of the Society without reference to the copyright holder.

A Society Joining Fee of **£50** and a half-subscription of **£150** will be payable to complete membership, with the understanding that the new Associate will pay the full rate of **£300** in advance on 1st January in the second and subsequent years.

Terms of the election process – Please read carefully as by submitting your application you are agreeing to the following:

1. You have fully read and understood the *Guidelines for Election of RE Associate Members*.
2. If you are elected,
 - a) You will pay the Society Joining Fee of **£50** and half the Annual Subscription (**£150**). In the second and subsequent years, you will pay the full Annual Subscription in advance each 1st January (the amount for **2026** is **£300** and is index-linked), or by Standing Order in advance in quarterly instalments.
 - b) You agree to the RE Council choosing one of your prints which you have submitted as your Diploma Work for the RE Collection.
 - c) You shall abide by the byelaws of the Society.

As an Associate RE member you will then

- Receive your Diploma at a certificate presentation event at Bankside Gallery
- be entitled to use 'ARE' after your name
- be invited to exhibit regularly at Bankside Gallery with the RE
- have an artist's profile on both Bankside Gallery and RE websites of work exhibited at Bankside
- be invited to have unframed work in the browsers in the gallery on display year-round
- be invited to submit periodically to Bankside Gallery's Online Store
- receive opportunities from the RE such as artist residencies, art fairs, involvement in educational activities.