

BIRR VINTAGE WEEK & ARTS FESTIVAL
OPEN SUBMISSION
2026



Here & Now

Small Squares, Big Presence

“Our present will become the past of other men and women.”

Eavan Boland, *Object Lessons: The Life of the Woman and the Poet in Our Time* (1995)

This year’s Open Call invites artists to respond to the theme of **Presence** through work created in a **foot-square (30 × 30 cm)** format.

Artists are encouraged to use unframed canvas or board, with careful attention to the edges as part of the finished piece. If your work requires framing due to its fragility, the **final outer dimensions must remain 30 × 30 cm**.

Part of this year’s Visual Arts Trail, *Presence* brings a playful sense of discovery, inviting audiences to notice how we shape and inhabit our surroundings, and the traces we leave behind. Blending echoes of history with everyday life and imagined futures, the trail offers a curious exploration of memory, ecology, and imagination.

Standard 30 × 30 cm canvases are widely available from Irish art suppliers such as Art & Hobby, Evans Art Supplies, Art Materials.ie, occasional alternatives may appear in discount stores.

Exhibition Friday July 31st – Thursday August 6th

We are very pleased to announce that one of the selected artists will be awarded a solo exhibition in 2026

Option 1: Online using this [link](#)

by Wed July 1st

Option 2: If you are unable to use the link, please submit images to

birrntageweekarts@gmail.com with **Open Submission** in the subject line. Include Title, medium, year, price. Label the image with YOUR name followed by artwork title) by Wed July 1st

As these are small works, we will be happy to accept delivery by post. Please include a stamped, self-addressed return label, and we will return your work in the original packaging provided. Please let me know if you will be posting the work

Wed 1 st July	Deadline for online submission
Sunday 12 th July	Applicants notified
Sat 18 th July	Delivery of on-line selected artworks 11-1pm, 2pm- 5pm
Friday 31 st July 8pm	Official Launch
Thursday 6 th August 6pm	Exhibition closes
Sunday 9 th August Monday 10 th August	Collection of work. 11-1pm 2-5pm By arrangement

- *Please include, 'BVW & AF Open Submission Exhibition' and your name in the email subject line*

Artists will be informed about selection by email, by 12th July.

- Artists are responsible for the safety and insurance of the work during transport.
- Artists are responsible for ensuring that submitted pieces are made of materials appropriate for transportation, exhibition for normal pre/post-show handling & storage.
 - The work will be insured by Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival from the date of submission to the **official** date of collection for non-selected work or the **official** date of collection for selected work, unsold after the exhibition, as appropriate.
 - All work must be securely labelled with Title and artists name, contact details.
 - All work must be submitted ready to hang, with all necessary fixtures securely attached.
 - Selection will be based on the work submitted and no substitutions may be made later.
 - A 15% commission will be applied to all work sold during the Exhibition.
 - Number of works: Artists may submit up to 3 pieces of their choice.
 - Up to 3 but as few as none may be selected for the exhibition.
 - No work previously exhibited in Birr will be selected.
 - The selectors' decision is final; they will have sole discretion on final display and no correspondence will be entered into.
 - We do not have storage facilities so if you are unable to make the official collection date, please arrange a day ASAP after that. Uncollected work will not be kept longer than 4 weeks.