

ABOUT THE ROYAL CAMBRIAN ACADEMY OF ART

Introduction

Established in 1881 and constituted in 1882 by Queen Victoria the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art is a centre for artistic excellence in Wales. It aims to exhibit work by members of the Academy, to promote up and coming artists of quality, to mount historical exhibitions and offer a lively venue for education.

The Royal Cambrian Academy of Art is an artists' co-operative and registered charity - the Academy's home is the Royal Cambrian Academy Gallery, Crown Lane, Conwy, LL32 8AN.

Academics (Full Members) and Associates are practising artists from diverse visual arts disciplines, who are elected by their peers to become members. The current President of the Academy is printmaker, Ann Lewis. There can be up to 150 full Academicians at any one time but we welcome a much wider membership through our Associate programme.

The Royal Cambrian Academy of Art has a full programme of exhibitions, providing artists with opportunities to showcase their work. It is committed to promoting engagement with the visual arts including projects for schools and the wider community in Wales.

Full Academicians and Associates have a shared responsibility for the running of the Academy. The main administrative committee of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art, the Council, is elected from the membership each year at the AGM (Annual General Meeting).

In addition, there is a small, dedicated team of gallery employees and volunteers who deal with the day-to-day running of the Gallery.

WHY JOIN THE RCA?

As an Associate member you will have access to a host of benefits.

We actively encourage our members to become involved in the running of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art. It provides a platform for professional development, gives an insight into the running of an art gallery (sales, marketing and organisation) and offers an opportunity to form new social and professional relationships. You will also have the chance to exchange views and expertise with other professional practitioners.

Additional benefits include:

- The use of the post nominal letters ARCA after your name.
- Solo exhibition opportunities in the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art Gallery (subject to availability).
- Automatic selection for at least two annual exhibitions without having to take part in the selection process.
- A platform from which to launch or progress your professional career.
- Your own artists' profile on the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art website.
- Association with a dedicated team of like-minded people, able to share

professional expertise and in some cases physical assistance and co-operation (for example, transport of work to other galleries).

- Access to one of the best independent gallery spaces and facilities in Wales.
- Invitations to all openings, private views, events and social functions of the Academy.
- Regular updates on exhibitions and all aspects of the Academy's activities by post, email, e-newsletter, website and social media.
- Opportunity to take part in funded projects or deliver workshops (subject to selection).

Your commitment to the RCA

Elected members are expected to contribute to the activities of the Academy. This includes exhibiting at the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art Gallery in Conwy, partaking in Royal Cambrian Academy of Art exhibitions in other galleries and wherever possible, assisting in the work of the Academy including events and educational activities.

Your commitment may also include serving on the Council and other committees. Members may be requested to take an active role in education events, outreach work and assisting with exhibitions as well attending private views and social functions.

BECOMING AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE ROYAL CAMBRIAN ACADEMY

In accordance with a change to the Academy's Articles of Constitution, voted on at the AGM in 2019, artists may only apply to become an **Associate** member, an application form and guidance information are available on the website. After 2 years as an Associate member, artists may apply for full Academician status.

Submission dates and process

Artists can apply at any time during the year for **Associate** membership and are invited to submit 10 digital images for consideration by members of the incumbent Council or a Council sub-committee. If shortlisted, artists will be invited to bring original works to the gallery in Conwy, to be viewed at the next Annual General Meeting.

All members of the Academy present at the AGM are then asked to vote on the work with the artist requiring over 50% of the vote to become an elected full or associate academician.

An Associate Academician will have the opportunity to progress to full membership after 2 years of regular participation within the Royal Cambrian Academy of Art and by submission of new work for consideration by Council.

All successful applicants will be sent a copy of the Rules of the Academy/Memorandum of Association and a request for payment of the first year's subscription of £80. Membership will not be considered operative until this is paid and by making this payment the new member will be understood to

have accepted their privileges and obligations to the Academy.

New Members Exhibition

Each year, new Associates are invited to submit a selection of works, for a joint **New Members** exhibition. This annual exhibition generally takes place in the September following the successful membership application, but dates can vary.