
MANCHESTER
ART FAIR
19-22 NOVEMBER 2026
MANCHESTER CENTRAL
For the collector, the curator
and the simply curious....



Manchester Art Fair 2026 - Four Days of Opportunity

In 2025, Manchester Art Fair welcomed over 10,000 visitors and generated almost £1 million in art sales — a clear signal of the fair's strong commercial impact and growing reputation among collectors.

Building on this success, Manchester Art Fair 2026 will run across four days, starting with a Thursday evening preview followed by three full public days. This expansion reflects the fair's ongoing growth and increasing demand from collectors, curators, corporate buyers and art lovers from across the UK.

The extra day gives you, our exhibitors, more time to connect with visitors, build relationships, and create meaningful sales opportunities over multiple visits. It's also the perfect chance to engage corporate art buyers, curators and VIP collectors, as well as audiences who prefer a weekday visit to the weekend rush.

This year's fair will feature an expanded programme of workshops, talks and tours, attracting even more buyers and art enthusiasts. Exhibitors will benefit from opportunities to connect with sponsors' clients, VIP collectors and curators during exclusive receptions, brunches and Michelin-star dining events hosted within the fair's restaurant and bar.

COLLECTOR PREVIEW	19 November 2026
OPEN DATES	20-22 November 2026

"Manchester Art Fair is consistently my most successful event. The organisation is excellent, the footfall is strong and I always have genuinely engaged conversations. I sold several pieces and met both new and returning collectors. The response to my work was fantastic, making the fair easily worthwhile and one I'm always happy to be part of."

Lindsey Tyson

The 2025 facts

179 exhibitors from across the UK and internationally

635 artists represented

10,386 visitors

£865k art sold

97% of visitors are from the North of England

37% of visitors own more than 10 pieces of work

23% spend more than £1000 per year on art

72% spend up to £1000 per year on art

41k+ subscribers

234k Website Views

56.8k Social Media Followers

1.5m Estimated PR Coverage Views

4.3m Advertising Reach

1m+ Social Media Impressions

"The fair has great footfall which provided many networking opportunities with artists, galleries and retailers. It was a great way of expanding my customer base and meeting new collectors."

Amadora Frogson



VIP PROGRAMME

The VIP Programme at Manchester Art Fair is designed to strengthen relationships between exhibitors and committed buyers, offering the time and access needed to engage thoughtfully with the work on display. It attracts established collectors, new and developing buyers, arts patrons and professional advisers who are actively building collections.

VIP guests receive early access to the fair, take part in curated guided tours providing insight into selected artists and works, and benefit from tailored introductions to exhibitors. A carefully considered programme of hospitality, including Sunday brunch, private dining and collector lunches within Manchester Central, provides a relaxed and sociable setting for conversation. In 2025, the programme brought Michelin starred chefs to Manchester Art Fair to deliver exclusive lunch and dinner experiences.

ART TALK

Art Talk is a popular series of live discussions, Q&A sessions, panels and artist-led talks where artists, critics, curators, collectors and other art world figures share insights into their work, perspectives on the contemporary art world, and ideas about collecting and creativity.



ART PREVIEW

The preview, now taking place on the Thursday evening, brings the fair to life with a specially invited audience of collectors, curators and key art buyers alongside the great and the good of the art world. As well being a much loved social event on the Manchester art scene, it gives exhibitors the space and time for genuine conversations and early sales.

ART CLASSROOM

Art Classroom is a programme of live print demonstrations and hands-on workshops, hosted by creative partners such as Hot Bed Press, Cass Art and Creative Art Courses. Visitors try their hands at techniques such as watercolour, printmaking and contemporary art practices enriching the visitor experience and encouraging dwell time at the fair.



THE MANCHESTER CONTEMPORARY

The Manchester Contemporary is a dedicated space showcasing critically engaged contemporary artists. The fair presents a carefully curated selection of independent galleries and artist-led spaces from across the UK and internationally. Its vision is to become an international focal point for discovering emerging contemporary art, offering collectors, curators and the art-buying public a definitive destination to uncover new talent.

By connecting artists with an engaged audience, The Manchester Contemporary aims to cultivate a growing network of professional collectors and provide meaningful opportunities to explore, engage with and acquire exceptional contemporary work.

THE MANCHESTER CONTEMPORARY ART FUND

Since 2017 The Manchester Contemporary Art Fund has acquired 48 artworks worth over £118,000 for the permanent collection of Manchester Art Gallery. The highly anticipated selection is announced at an exclusive reception hosted as part of the preview evening with 30+ fund members and special guests in attendance.

2025 saw the Fund raise a record breaking £41,000 to purchase artworks which will be on display alongside the permanent collection in the gallery in 2026. The TMC Art Fund hosts an annual lunch and tour of these installations as part of its programme of social and engagement events.



Artists

STAND PACKAGE

- Traditional white wooden wall panels, approx. 1m wide x 3m high
- Standard spotlight allocation and track and nameboard signage
- 10 exhibitor passes
- Profile on Manchester Art Fair website including art preview and news
- Free art wrap service
- Complimentary weekend and preview tickets
- Free Wi-Fi
- Additional porters and trolleys on-site during build-up and breakdown
- Stand furniture, additional panels, wall painting, extra lighting and storage options available*
- Gallery to stand delivery service provided by The British Shop*
- Technician hanging service*
- International shipping support provided by The British Shop*

STAND SIZES

2x2m (4sqm) = £1432+VAT

3x2m (6sqm) = £2148+VAT

4x2m (8sqm) = £2864+VAT

End Wall = £100+VAT

WALLING & LIGHTING

Manchester Art Fair works with Aubury's to deliver a high-quality walling and lighting system for the fair. Exhibitors will receive a standard allocation of lighting with the chance to order additional lighting and storage options once the booking is confirmed.

* Some options may incur additional charges



Participation

Artist applications are open to those with a history of selling work through their own gallery/studio, an online platform or at art fairs.

Applicants are asked to apply online providing exhibitor information along with artist details, example images, artwork price range and the size of stand required. Successful applicants will be contacted with a stand allocation as soon as possible and at the very latest within 4 weeks of the application round closing.

PAYMENT TERMS

A deposit of 30% of the total invoice is payable on booking, followed by instalments of 30% and 40%. Any bookings less than 6 months from the event will have stand invoices rolled together accordingly.

APPLICATION FEES

All applications are subject to a fee of £25 incl VAT. The fee is non refundable and covers the administration costs for processing the applications and the selection procedure.

The application portal will be open until Midnight on Sunday 22 March 2026.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

- All exhibitors must show original work and all work must be for sale.
- Original prints and prints made with the hand of the artist are acceptable with a maximum edition size of 150.
- Limited fine art photography is acceptable when signed and numbered with a maximum edition size of 150.
- Digitally created artwork will be considered on an individual basis. Mass produced digital or giclée reproductions are not acceptable.
- The decision of the organisers is final and based upon the selection criteria and fair objectives.

APPLY ONLINE
https://www.manchesterartfair.co.uk/exhibit-manchester-art-fair-2026/artist-application-2026

For further information please contact:
Sophie Helm - Fair Director
sophie.helm@easelprojects.com



EASEL PROJECTS

Based in the North of England, **EASELprojects** is best known for running Manchester Art Fair and The Manchester Contemporary, which together constitute the largest art market ecology outside of London, as well as the philanthropic The Manchester Contemporary Art Fund. With over 20 years' experience in delivering large scale trade and consumer exhibitions in the culture and hospitality sectors EASELprojects also provides consultancy, marketing and operations support to organisers and partners hosting events in Manchester and the North.

Co-Founder and **Executive Chair Thom Hetherington** is a seasoned figure in the UK arts and hospitality world. He is also founder of Landing Light, a consultancy specialising in culture, hospitality and placemaking strategy. Thom's work makes him a key advocate for regional cultural growth, both as a trustee of Factory International (following similar roles at Urbis, Castlefield Gallery and Manchester Art Gallery) and as a Soho House creative industries mentor.

Sophie Helm is the **Co-Founder** and **Managing Director** of EASELprojects. In her role as Fair Director, she has steered Manchester Art Fair and The Manchester Contemporary for fifteen years, shaping its growth into one of the UK's most significant contemporary art events. She has long been active in broader cultural advocacy for the region, culminating in her recent appointment by to the newly revamped Creative Industries Council by Lisa Nandy, Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport.

MANCHESTER ART FAIR

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"Extremely well organised show, run by staff who know how to promote a show and look after exhibitors. Thank you!"

Penny Hunt

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OPENING TIMES

Thursday 19 November 2026, 17.00 – 21.00
Friday 20 November 2026, 11.00 – 19.00
Saturday 21 November 2026, 10.00 – 18.00
Sunday 22 November 2026, 10.00-16.00

▶ Watch Manchester Art Fair in Action

See what exhibitors experience at the fair and discover why it's a must-attend event.

manchesterartfair.co.uk

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