

## Wildlife Artist of the Year 2024

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

DSWF's Wildlife Artist of the Year is an internationally renowned wildlife art competition and exhibition, attracting entries from some of the most talented and passionate international artists who come together to celebrate the beauty of the natural world. With eight unique categories, DSWF encourages all artists, both amateur and professional, to take part in this global competition.

For more information on the Wildlife Artist of the Year competition and how it came about, [click here](#), and to enter this exciting competition, please [click here](#). Below are some of the competition FAQs. If you have any further questions having reviewed all the available information below, please contact the DSWF team at [way@davidsshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidsshepherd.org)

### Entering WAY

#### Who can enter WAY?

The DSWF Wildlife Artist of the Year competition is open to all artists, both amateur and professional, aged 15 years and over on the closing date (11 March 2024). Artists aged between 15 - 19 years old by the closing date are entered into the Youth Exclusive category.

#### How can I enter WAY 2024?

You may enter WAY by filling out the online form on the [entry page](#) and uploading a digital copy of your piece. All entries, without exception, must be sent in a digital format with the following specifications:

- Use still images only, not video.
- Crop the image to just show the artwork (no frame or mount).
- Ensure the file is a minimum of 2200 pixels and no larger than 6MB.
- For 3D artworks and sculptures, please include up to a maximum of 3 extra images per entry to show the different angles of your piece for the judges.

You may also enter WAY using this [postal form](#). Please note that all [postal entries](#) for WAY must be sent at least 5 working days prior to the closing date to ensure that they are received in time for judging.

For the digital image of your piece, we recommend using a high quality camera, scanning your image or getting a professional photograph taken.

## **How important is the quality of the artwork photograph I send?**

Please note that the image quality of your entry is extremely important. This is the only exposure to your artwork that the judges will have for the shortlisting judging. If you send a poor representation, this will reduce your chances of being selected as a finalist.

Please ensure that the image of your piece is not blurred, affected by a glare, and is cropped correctly. Due to the high number of entries, DSWF may be unable to contact you if your image is not of high enough quality.

## **How will I know that my entry has been successfully received?**

Upon completion and submission of your entry form with the associated payment, you will receive an automatic email confirming safe receipt. If, after 48 hours, you still have not received this, please contact [way@davidshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidshepherd.org) or call our office on 01483 272323.

## **Can I make changes after submission?**

Unfortunately, we cannot accept any changes to submitted pieces once an entry has been received. However, if you are aware that you have made an error on your entry form (e.g. listing the wrong dimensions), please email [way@davidshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidshepherd.org) as soon as possible and we will look into this for you.

## **When/how do I find out the results of the competition?**

Every artist who has taken part in WAY 2024 will be advised after the second round of judging has taken place, in **early May 2024**, as to whether or not they have been shortlisted and selected for exhibition. This information will be sent via email to the email address provided on your entry form. Please ensure that your email address is correct.

Those who are unfortunately not shortlisted will also be informed by email at the same time.

The winners of the competition will be selected by our expert judging panel from the finalists of the competition and therefore will all be selected artworks that are physically in the exhibition at the Mall Galleries. The overall winner, category and award winners will be judged in person at the Mall Galleries after hanging and before the exhibition opens. Winners will be announced in the WAY 2024 Awards Ceremony on **1 July 2024** which will also be available to watch online, and will then be published on the DSWF website and via social media.

## **I am having issues submitting/completing my entry form?**

Please be aware that we have previously experienced a few issues with artists trying to submit their entry using the Safari browser. Please try accessing the form via an alternate browser (e.g. Chrome) and try again. If the problem persists, you may either send a [postal form](#) or email our team at [way@davidshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidshepherd.org). We have also found that entries being sent in the last two weeks before the deadline can be held up by the sheer volume of traffic on the website. Please do try and submit your entries as early as possible to avoid this problem. Thank you for your patience.

## **Can I enter if I don't live in the United Kingdom?**

Yes! Wildlife Artist of the Year is open to all international amateur and professional artists from across the world. All artists will receive equal consideration by our judges. Please just be aware that by entering WAY, you are agreeing to send your piece (if shortlisted) to be displayed at our in-person exhibition.

## **What is the maximum number of entries?**

Please note that there is no maximum number of entries, however there is a maximum of 10 entries per online entry form. If you are planning to submit more than 10 entries, please submit 10 via the online system and contact us at [way@davidsshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidsshepherd.org) and we will help with processing further entries at the correct discounted price.

## **Entry fee**

### **How much does it cost to enter the competition?**

- The entry fee is **£25 per artwork** for the first two entries, and **£15 per entry** thereafter. (There is no limit on the number of entries).
- Youth Exclusive category entrants will pay **£15 per entry**. The Youth Exclusive category is only available to young artists between the ages of 15 to 19 years at the closing date (**11 March 2024**)

*Important note: If you wish to qualify for the reduced entry fee of £15 for third and subsequent entries, please submit all the artworks you are entering at the same time. For submitting more than 10 entries please see the note above.*

### **Payment methods**

Payment via online entry can be made by debit or credit card (hosted by Paypal) or by direct payment from a Paypal account. **You do not have to have a Paypal account to use the card payment option.**

We have previously had instances where certain payment options are not available in some countries. Please contact us at [way@davidsshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidsshepherd.org) if you are experiencing difficulties.

### **Is the entry fee refundable?**

No, the entry fee is not refundable in normal circumstances. We may refund the amount to you if there is an error in the transaction that prevents you from submitting your piece or results in your submission being made more than once. If this is the case, please call our office on 01483 272 323 or email us at [way@davidsshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidsshepherd.org).

### **If I live in a country where it is not possible to make international payments can the entry fee be waived?**

Unfortunately, we are not able to accept entries without the entry fee. DSWF is a small charity, with the Wildlife Artist of the Year competition being an incredibly important part of our fundraising efforts to support endangered species and the work of our conservation partners across the world. If you have problems regarding the methods of payment of the entry fee and would like advice, please email the team at [way@davidsshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidsshepherd.org).

## **Can someone else pay for my entry?**

Yes, this is possible and the payer details are requested on the online entry form if different to the artist. If payment is being made offline, it is vital that the person paying the entry fee makes it clear who the entrant they are paying for is by providing the entrant name and address.

## **Excluding the entry fee, are there any further costs involved in entering the competition?**

Yes. But only if you are a shortlisted finalist and your piece is selected by the judges to take part in the annual exhibition. In this case there will be additional costs for shipping your piece to and, if unsold, from the Mall Galleries, London.

## **Artwork**

### **Which mediums are allowed?**

Mediums can include, but are not restricted to, oil, acrylic, watercolour, pencil, mixed media, bronze, plaster, wire, collage and textiles, with styles encompassing traditional, abstract, monochrome and many others – the choice is yours.

We also accept 'original prints' which are defined as a print either in black and white or in colour, drawn from one or several plates, conceived and executed entirely by hand by the same artist, regardless of the technique employed, with the exclusion of any and all mechanical, digital or photomechanical processes. Every stage must have been completed by hand by the artist. Examples are woodcuts, etchings and linocuts.

Unfortunately, photography or digital artworks are **not** accepted in this competition.

### **Can artwork that is not for sale be considered in the competition?**

No. Please note that all submitted artwork **must** be the original piece and **must** be available for sale by DSWF for the duration of the WAY 2024 exhibition.

### **Is there a timeframe for when the artwork must have been produced?**

Please note that all submitted pieces must have been completed by the artist within the last five years. Artwork produced before the 11 March 2019 will not be considered.

### **Can I use an image I found on the internet as a reference image?**

Yes. However, please ensure that you have permission from the photographer, company or individual that you can use it for artistic purposes (see [terms and conditions](#)).

### **Are there any restrictions on the species chosen for the final piece?**

Please be aware that this competition is for wildlife art, and all entries that include animals should be of wild animals. Any domestic animals (e.g. dog, cat, cow, sheep) will not be accepted and will not be considered as a finalist piece. For entries to the 'Facing Extinction' category, please check the species is listed as under threat on the IUCN's Red List ([www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)).

### **How do I chose my category?**

The categories are clearly described in the [Terms and Conditions](#) and artists can chose where they think their artwork fits best. All entries made by artists aged between 15 and 19 years at the closing date will be entered into the Youth Exclusive category. Occasionally judges will feel that an artwork fits better in another category and will ask for it to be moved. We will always discuss this with artists.

### **If I am aged between 15 and 19 years can I enter my artwork into any category?**

No, all entries made by artists aged between 15 and 19 years at the closing date will be entered into the Youth Exclusive category which is judged separately to the main categories.

### **Can I submit a piece that has been entered in a previous WAY?**

Unfortunately, DSWF cannot accept a piece that has been entered into a previous Wildlife Artist of the Year competition.

### **Can my signature show on the artwork?**

Yes. Whilst judging is done anonymously, we understand that the majority of artists 'sign' their work, and therefore to avoid dramatically changing the image of the artwork we do allow pieces with the signature showing.

### **Is there a maximum size/weight restriction for entries?**

No, there is no maximum size limit but please do bear in mind that you will be responsible for the logistics and cost of delivery if your artwork is shortlisted for the Mall Galleries exhibition.

### **Can collaboration work be accepted?**

All pieces submitted need to be completed by a singular artist. No collaborations or group pieces may be accepted.

## **Judging**

### **Will the judging be based on the actual artwork or the images that are sent?**

Please note that initial judging to shortlist stage will only be based on the image submitted with each entry. Therefore it is extremely important that a high resolution, clear, cropped photograph is sent of your artwork.

### **Who is on the panel of judges?**

The judging panel is made up of artists, conservationists, gallery owners, editors, photographers and interior designers. There will be a separate panel formed for the Youth Exclusive category, with winners announced alongside the other category winners.

## **What are the judges looking for?**

The judges are not only looking for beautifully executed artworks but also imaginative and innovative interpretations of category titles. As well as an understanding of your subject, the judges are looking for originality and a genuine love and understanding of your medium.

For the Youth Exclusive category, judges are looking for freedom of expression but will expect that artworks represent the natural world as specified in the wide breadth of all categories.

You can of course get your inspiration from a photograph or other artwork but be sure to make this your own interpretation of that image. Straight copies are not only breaching copyright but may also be judged to be unimaginative. Please see the specific terms over the use of photographic images in the [Terms and Conditions](#).

## **Prizes**

### **How many prizes are awarded?**

The judges will choose an overall competition winner, an overall competition runner up, and a winner of each category. In addition to this there are various other prizes including the Elizabeth Hosking Prize for the best painting in watercolour, the David Shepherd Art of Survival Award, the Michelle Lee Howk First Time Entrants Prize and The Artist Editor's Choice Award. The People's Choice Award is voted for by the public during the exhibition period.

### **What are the prizes?**

Prizes are detailed in the [Terms and Conditions](#). During the competition period additional prizes may be added.

All cash prizes are fully sponsored.

## **Exhibition of finalists**

### **If I am shortlisted what happens next?**

Shortlisted artists will be asked to complete an Artist Agreement that provides DSWF with detailed information on the artist and the artwork for exhibition, sales promotion and artist payment purposes. Artists will be provided with detailed requirements regarding the exhibition logistics including delivery and hanging.

### **When is the exhibition for WAY?**

The DSWF Wildlife Artist of the Year 2024 Exhibition will be held at the Mall Galleries, London SW1 between Monday 1 July – Saturday 6 July 2024.

There will be also be an online exhibition, where WAY 2024 finalist work can be viewed and purchased remotely. The online exhibition will open on Wednesday 26 June and close on Saturday 6 July 2024.

### **Should my pieces be unframed or framed?**

At **entry** stage it does not matter if artwork is framed or unframed, as long as the image sent is very clear and the frame and/or mount are not visible.

**Artworks selected for exhibition must be delivered to the Mall Galleries ready for hanging, including framing if relevant, and an art hanging system.** If you need any assistance or advice with this, please contact us at [way@davidshepherd.org](mailto:way@davidshepherd.org).

### **Do you help with the delivery to the gallery?**

We understand that some artists based outside the UK will have challenges in organising delivery to London. We strongly recommend the use of our art logistics partner [Picture Post](#), who can advise on delivery administration, including import and tax considerations, and organise delivery and return on your behalf. Details of [Picture Post's](#) services will be provided to shortlisted artists. Delivery costs (including any customs and VAT costs) are paid by the artist

### **What artist details will be shown at the exhibition?**

All shortlisted artists will be asked to submit a biography and a description of the shortlisted artwork in the Artist Agreement. These will be used in the online gallery and for the labels at the exhibition.

It is therefore essential to provide up to date and engaging copy, within the word count specified.

### **How is the exhibition promoted?**

The DSWF marketing team work on a schedule of promotional activities to ensure the exhibition receives maximum attention. We also work with the team at the Mall Galleries to ensure visitor numbers are high during the week and with our various media partners to attract visitors and buyers.

We are always delighted if artists can also promote the WAY exhibition to their networks. Shortlisted artists will be provided with a Promotion Pack to help with their marketing, We will also often ask finalists to work with our DSWF marketing team on promotional activities before the exhibition.

## **Sales, Commissions and Deliveries**

### **What is the commission structure on the artwork sold?**

All artwork sold during the WAY exhibition will be split 50/50, with 50% going to the artist and 50% to DSWF.

Any artwork sold after the exhibition closes, or from commissions taken from the exhibition, will be split 70/30, with 70% of the sale price going to the artist and 30% going to DSWF.

## **Delivery of sold artwork**

DSWF will handle all sales and the delivery to buyers, with costs charged to buyers.

## **When can I expect payment for artwork sold during the competition exhibition?**

Upon receipt of payment from the buyer, and confirmation from the buyer that the artwork has been safely delivered and received in good condition, our Finance department will be alerted and will arrange transfer of your portion of the sale proceeds to your nominated bank account.

## **If the artwork does not sell during the exhibition, will it still remain available for sale on your website?**

If an artwork does not sell during the exhibition it will no longer be available for sale by DSWF unless it is agreed between DSWF and the artist for the artwork to be used for future fundraising.

## **If the artwork does not sell during the exhibition what happens to it?**

All unsold artworks must be collected from the Mall Galleries by artists, at the artist's cost, shortly after the exhibition and by a date which will be notified. DSWF retain the services of [Picture Post](#) who will assist with collection from the gallery and onward delivery back to the artist, including export and tax considerations for artists based outside the UK. Artists will pay for delivery costs but DSWF will cover all administration costs.

## **If my artwork is chosen for the exhibition do I have to sell the original?**

The original piece of artwork for all shortlisted artists **must** be available to sell during the exhibition. No substitute will be accepted.

## **If my artwork is chosen for the exhibition can I offer multiple editions for sale?**

If your artwork is either an original print (see definition above) or a cast sculpture produced in a limited edition then we can offer multiple editions of your artwork for sale at the exhibition. This will be discussed with artists on an individual basis.