

Ryedale Open Studios 2026-7: Information for Applicants

Introduction

Ryedale Open Studios is an annual arts event dedicated to celebrating the rich creativity and artistic talent within the Ryedale district of North Yorkshire. Our selected artists open their workshops, studios, and homes over two weekends every year, offering a fantastic opportunity for the public to meet artists directly and gain an exclusive insight into their working processes. Since its inaugural event in 2021, Ryedale Open Studios has showcased the diverse arts and crafts taking place throughout the region. This year marks its 5th successful year, now proudly facilitated by You Will Be C.I.C. We pride ourselves on having a clear application process that supports artists at all stages of their careers—from newly emerging to established—fostering a wider interest in the arts across Ryedale.

Applications for our 2026-7 event are now open. Ryedale Open Studios is a popular event that attracts a significant number of applicants, and a certain level of professionalism is required in your approach to applying and taking part.

We ask all applicants to read the information in this document carefully before filling in the application form. This should be read in conjunction with the relevant FAQs, which are available on Curator Space alongside the application form.

Terms and Conditions

1. Artists must live, or have a permanent studio, within the Ryedale district of North Yorkshire or within 10km of its boundary.
2. It is each artist's responsibility to monitor their emails, and to read and respond in a timely fashion.
3. It is each artist's responsibility to meet the set deadlines.
4. Any artist who has been unable to secure a venue by the specified deadline may be deselected.
5. Artists must open and supervise their venue personally during all published opening hours.
6. If an artist has to close their venue at short notice they must contact the committee at the earliest opportunity and place signage on the door pointing visitors to the nearest artist.
7. Artists must not display work for sale that they have not created themselves unless by another Ryedale open studios artist.
8. Artists must not advertise the work of any other artist unless that artist has been officially accepted; nor promote other art events which coincide with Ryedale Open Studios weekends.
9. Artists will publicise Ryedale Open Studios to their mailing list and on their website, social media, etc.
10. Artists must distribute their allocation of directories, and make all reasonable efforts to volunteer some time to assist with the further distribution of directories and other general promotional activities.
11. After the event artists must promptly provide feedback to the organiser when asked.
12. If their work is for sale artists must pay Ryedale Open Studios 10% of the total sales

made over £250 during or as a result of the Ryedale Open Studios event, including new work commissioned. (Ryedale Open Studios does not take commission on total sales below £250.) Any work sold directly from the ROS Exhibition or its showcase must pay a 30% commission.

13. Submitted images and text will be used by Ryedale Open Studios as part of our general marketing and promotions for this year's event and future events, and may be edited for publication.
14. Artists may become ineligible for future events if their conduct is deemed to be intended or likely to damage Ryedale Open Studios. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Implying by advertising, signage or publicity that an unaccepted artist/venue is part of Ryedale Open Studios.
 - Posting critical or defamatory comments on social media, or encouraging others to do so.
 - Harassing or using abusive language or behaviour towards the committee or other volunteers.
 - Directly approaching or harassing a member, or members, of the application review panel, whether before or after the application decision.
15. **By submitting an application to Ryedale Open Studios, applicants legally commit to the payment of the applicable participation fee £35; within 14 days of receiving notification of acceptance.**

A submission fee of £0 is payable upon application. This fee is 100% refundable in the event of rejection. This will be deducted from your overall participation fee for the event. Failure to pay the participation fee within 14 days will lead to deselection.

Failure to comply with any of our terms and conditions may result in an artist being removed from the event, or ineligible for future events.

Expectations

Ryedale Open Studios can only happen with the help of its participants. The committee members are volunteers who fit organising this event around their jobs, families, and other commitments. While we are passionate about the event, we can't do what we need to without your help.

Our application process and our contact with artists are primarily digital. If you struggle with technical skills, we suggest you enlist a friend or family member to help with the application form and any subsequent forms we send you.

It is essential that you read the emails we send you, read instructions carefully, and meet the deadlines we set. We try not to bombard our accepted artists with lots of emails, so when we do send something, it's because it contains important information. It is therefore crucial that your application includes an email address that you check regularly (including the junk mail/spam folders).

The committee will do their best to market the event, but of course you are expected to do your part by promoting the event to your existing contacts and in the local area. It is your event too! Any artist who creates an excessive amount of work for the committee by not following the instructions we issue, risks being removed from the event.

Applying for Ryedale Open Studios

You will see we have one opportunity for application. Each has a description and some FAQs

alongside the application form.

Following feedback from applicants that the text on Curator Space forms is quite small, we have also included a PDF version of all the information which you may find easier to navigate (the link is on the Description page for each opportunity). You might find it helpful to download or print off a copy of this to have to hand as you fill in the form. You can of course adjust your browser size to make the page bigger on your screen.

Tips on using Curator Space

Whether you are new to Curator Space or you have used it lots before, please check your settings to make sure you will receive the messages we send in relation to your application. In My Account, click Settings, and then Manage my notifications:

Then make sure you have ticked "Tell me when someone sends me a message" and "Tell me when my submission is successfully received by a curator" (and any others you wish to use).

Once you've started a form, you can save it and access it again for any further editing, up until the deadline. It will not be submitted to us until you click the "make submission" button at the bottom of the form. Once the form is submitted, you cannot make any further edits. You will receive an automated acknowledgement through Curator Space that the form has been submitted.

Images

We require four good quality JPG images of the type of work you expect to show. At least three of the images must be individual works but two may be detail or close-up shots if you feel it would support your application.

Your images must be high quality and show your work clearly and professionally. They will be used by our panel during the review process, and then if you are accepted they will be used on our website, marketing materials and social media. Take some time to think if these images best represent your work - to stand out to the reviewers, and to attract potential visitors to your studio.

If you have taken part in Ryedale Open Studios before, please don't use the same five images of artwork from a previous year - we want to keep the directory and website fresh.

Do not submit screenshots, cropped or bordered images: send only originals. Do not submit a picture of yourself or your studio - if your application is accepted we will request a profile picture later.

You should prepare your images on your device BEFORE uploading them – it is very difficult to rename them within Curator Space, and we require each image to be supplied as specified:

- **Directory image (1):** This MUST be landscape, and should be of work you have created in the last 2 years. The dimensions of the space this is going into are 777 x 499 pixels, or 65.75 x 42.25mm, at 300dpi. The file name should be in the following format: "Surname Firstname Directory" (or if your artist name is different, "Artistname Directory"). We reserve the right to choose another directory image if we feel your submission will not stand out on the page at print size.

If the image you submit is not in landscape orientation, it will either have to be cropped or will look like this with a blank 'border' around it, which will make it quite small.

You should bear in mind that there may be some text laid over this image, so any detail at the edges may be obscured. Here are some examples from previous directories:

- **Additional images of your work (4):** name the files using the following format: "Surname

Firstname 1", "Surname Firstname 2", etc. (or if your artist name is different, "Artistname 1").

We reserve the right to edit images and to use them for advertising purposes. You will not be able to change your images once they have been submitted.

Description of your work

You are also asked to provide a short statement about the work in your images. Please explain your motivation, inspiration and materials used. You might also mention special techniques. The aim is to make sure the review panel understands you and your work.

Collaborative/collective work

Anyone considering submitting collaborative work should note the following:

- All the work must be jointly created and exhibited.
- We would accept an application from artist A who makes ceramic vessels with artist B who glazes them - every pot has thus been created by both people.
- We would not accept an application from a collective of printmakers who simply wish to exhibit together, even if they have worked on some pieces together - they should apply individually and, if accepted, may choose to share a venue for the event.
- You can apply independently with your own work only.
- Both (or all) artists must be onsite during all published opening hours.

For the avoidance of doubt, we understand collaborative work to be two (or more) artists creating one piece of work.

Application Review Process

Once we receive your application we will pass it to our selectors who will accept your application or reject it and refund your submission fee.

Your application will not be passed to the reviewers if:

- you do not meet the geographical entry criteria
- you do not meet the criteria as specified, e.g. quality, your own work etc.

How the review works: Our panel comprises arts professionals from outside the immediate Ryedale area. The membership of the panel changes each year, with individual reviewers serving a maximum of twice.

The panel is asked to apply the following criteria when reviewing applications:

- We are keen to show a wide range of disciplines, but we expect the work to be original and high quality, and demonstrate a clear direction and vision.
- We want our visitors to be excited by the work on offer.
- The work submitted should evoke a positive response, and you should use your knowledge and experience to come to a decision.
- Presentation and execution of work must be of a consistently high quality.
- Please also consider the professionalism of the images presented (in focus, properly lit, etc.). If the applicant is accepted, these are the images that will be used in our printed directory and on our website.

Decisions will be based purely on the quality of the applications submitted, irrespective of any previous participation in Ryedale Open Studios, so make sure your images are high quality and show your work clearly. You are asked for a description of your work and you must make sure

that the panel understands what they are looking at.

The panel may also research your work via your website, but time is always tight and first impressions from the submitted images and description are crucial. Artists who submit poor quality images or descriptions that are too brief or unclear are unlikely to be accepted.

The 5 reviewers work independently from each other, each having one vote.

Once the review is complete, applicants will be notified via Curator Space whether their application has been accepted or rejected.

The Ryedale Open Studios committee has no input into who is accepted, and is unable to enter into discussion with applicants who have not been accepted - the decision of the review panel is final.

After Acceptance

Artists who are accepted will be sent an additional confirmation form in Curator Space to submit more information if required, which is then used to create the directory and our website.

Space available in the printed directory is fixed, hence the strict word limit and image dimensions as specified in the application and confirmation forms:

For digital promotion, again, the requirements laid out in the application and confirmation forms are to ensure that the content you give us fits the page well. Each artist will have a page on the website and the profile picture submitted for this must be landscape:

So, as you will want your information and images to be presented as professionally as possible, it is in your interests to get the information you submit in the forms to be as good as you can.

Once the Ryedale Open Studios committee has gathered all the information, there is still lots to do! See the timetable on the next page for the various events and deadlines. We'll share more information about the various steps with accepted applicants as the year goes on.

Timetable (Provisional for 2026/7 - Specific Dates to be Confirmed)

Date(s)	Event/Deadline	Notes
Monday 10th August	Call for Artists go live	
Monday 12th Oct, 11:59pm	Deadline for applications	
Wednesday 14th Oct	Committee working on directory, website, and social media	
October 2026	Signage orders	We will email you about this
October 2026	Committee working on promotion, press, and taster exhibition	
Mid November 2026, TBC	Venue pack collection (your directories, signage, and other items)	The Parish, Spital street, Malton
December	Pop up exhibition	The Parish, Spital street, Malton
3rd January-6 April 2027	exhibition	Dalby forest
March 20/21/27/28	Open studios weekends	

Date(s)	Event/Deadline	Notes
6/4/2027	Artists' feedback form and payment of commission deadline	
Date TBC	End of event social evening	
Date TBC	End of year report	End date TBC
Venue TBC		Will be circulated by email