

SAM Open 2026 Application Guidelines

SAM Open is an annual exhibition that showcases the artwork of creatives living, working, and studying in the Goulbourn Valley and Hume Regions.

Creatives at all levels of experience are invited to submit an artwork.

Theme

There is no theme for 2026.

Key dates (TBC)

Submissions open: 1 July 2026

Submissions close: 1 September 2026

Confirmation of inclusion in exhibition from SAM: 1 October 2026

Artwork delivery: 13 - 16 November 2026

Exhibition dates: 21 Nov 2026 – 28 Feb 2027

Non-refundable Application fee of \$25.00 including GST.

Friends of SAM are eligible for a 10% discount on application fee. To receive your discount, please enter the Friends of SAM discount code (shared by the Friends of SAM president) when processing your payment online. If paying at the Front Desk please show your membership card.

Entry does not include membership with the Friends of SAM.

Eligibility

- Applicants must live, work or study within Greater Shepparton, Alpine, Benalla, Campaspe, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, and Wodonga.
- Applicants must be 16 years of age or older at the time of applying.
- Applicants cannot be full time employees of Shepparton Art Museum or members of the SAM Ltd Board, SAM Foundation Board, and their advisory committees.
- Applicants must submit original work
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria requirements will not be considered.

Application process

- Applications must be submitted online via the submission portal.
- Applications are reviewed by the SAM Curatorial team. All efforts will be made to include all artworks submitted in the exhibition; however, final selection of artworks will be based on the need to mount a cohesive exhibition that fits the space and displays the submitted artwork favourably.

- Artists will be notified of the outcome of their submission by early June 2025.

Artwork specifications:

- Submissions are limited to one artwork per artist. The artwork must be their original artwork, completed within the last 24 months and not exhibited at SAM previously.
- Submitted artwork needs to be finished at time of entry.
- Both two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks will be accepted.
- All mediums are accepted such as painting, photography, ceramics, bronze, woodwork, watercolour, graphite, charcoal, stone, video, and graphic design.
- Artworks that include hazardous materials, rust, or untreated organic material such as wood, plants, or animal matter will not be accepted.
- All 2D artworks need to arrive 'ready to hang'. Wet artworks will not be accepted. For more information, please see the 'Ready to Hang Resource.'
- 2D artworks must not exceed the size limit of 8,000 square cm, with a maximum height or width of 100 cm (e.g., 100cm height x 80cm width). Some standard sizes include:
 - 80 x 90 cm (= 7,200 square cm)
 - 61 x 91 cm / 24" x 36" (= 5,551 square cm)
 - 30 x 40 cm / 12" x 16" (= 1,200 square cm)
 - 20 x 25 cm / 8" x 10" (= 500 square cm)

Dimensions apply to the entire artwork, including the mounting or framing.

Artworks may be a multi-panel artwork, but overall dimensions must not exceed the size limit.

- 3D artworks must approximately fit within the size limit of 125,000 square cm, with a maximum height or width of 60 cm (e.g., 50cm height x 50cm width x 50cm height).
- Please note that if SAM Curatorial staff deem content of an artwork as containing offensive, illegal, dangerous, or third-party material that infringes copyright, the artwork will not be accepted or displayed.

Questions? Email the team at forartists@sheppartonartmuseum.com.au

The application form will be hosted on Formsite and will be available on the SAM website on the 'Exhibit at SAM' page [here](#).

Terms & Conditions

1. Applicants acknowledge and agree that they enter and participate in the Community Gallery programs entirely at their own risk and SAM accepts no liability whatsoever for any damage caused or loss suffered as a result of the entrant's entry and participation in the programs.
2. Application fees are non-refundable. If submitted works are not selected for exhibition, application fees will not be refunded.
3. Being a member of the Friends of SAM does not make you automatically eligible for SAM Open.
4. SAM may request proof of age, address, working, or studying within the region and retains the right to make a submission ineligible if proof is not supplied.
5. Artworks must comply with the size limitations set in the guidelines and no work is to exceed 40kgs in weight to ensure safe handling.
6. The applicant warrants that the submitted artwork is original work and does not infringe copyright, moral rights, or other rights of any third party. The applicant indemnifies Shepparton Art Museum against any loss resulting from breach of these warranties.
7. Artworks that include hazardous materials, rust, or untreated organic material such as wood, plants, or animal matter will not be accepted for SAM Open. Organic materials that are 'self-treated' by the applicant may also be ineligible, i.e. plant matter that has been sprayed or painted over. Treated, commercially available organic material such as timber from Bunnings, is acceptable.
8. Artists retain copyright of their artwork.
9. Successful entrants and applicants grant SAM a non-exclusive and royalty-free license to display, publish, cause to be published or otherwise use the application images to promote the Community Gallery program in promotional material, including on SAM's website, social media pages, and print.
10. Work for all programs must be delivered ready to hang. No wet work will be accepted and anything electrical must be tagged and tested prior to delivery.
11. While all reasonable care will be taken, Shepparton Art Museum will accept no responsibility for damage to work during installation, display, or dismantling of the exhibition.
12. Entrants acknowledge and accept that if they submit an unframed work on paper, photograph, or a work mounted on foam core or matboard that the install team may use pins, magnets, or adhesives to hang the work which may leave marks, holes, or residue on the work.
13. SAM retains the right to make the final decision of what works will be included and the layout of exhibitions.
14. SAM reserves the right to change the dates, alter, or cancel exhibitions.