



UniSQ Biennial Art Award 2026

Name:	UniSQ Biennial Art Award
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Awards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Winner (\$20,000 Acquisitive)• Emerging Artist Award (\$3,000.00 Acquisitive) (Emerging Artist is defined by the Australian Council for the Arts; as those in the first five years of professional practice)• People's Choice Award (\$1,000.00 Non-acquisitive)
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Judges:	<p>Overall Winner and Emerging Artist Award Director of Creative UniSQ Curator (Arts and Exhibitions) Two independent guest judge nominated by UniSQ</p> <p>People's Choice Award: Members of the public during the Exhibition.</p>
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Submissions Open:	1 st May 2026
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Deadline for Submissions:	20 th Jul 2026
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Finalists Selected and Informed:	3 rd August 2026
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Exhibition (at UniSQ Art Gallery, B Block Toowoomba Campus)	
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• Installation:	24 th -31 st August 2026
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• Display:	1 st September – 2 nd October 2026
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• Opening Event and Award Announcement:	Friday 4 th September 2026
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• De-Installation:	5 th – 12 th October 2026
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Terms and Conditions

1. Eligibility criteria and entry conditions

- 1.1. The UniSQ Biennial Art Award is offered by the University of Southern Queensland and is open to Australian citizens, permanent residents, or holders of an Australian-issued refugee or humanitarian visa residing in Australia.
- 1.2. An artist may enter a maximum of five works, providing each artwork is the artist's original work.
- 1.3. The artwork must have been completed within two years of the date of submission.
- 1.4. Artists may enter all forms of 2D and 3D work including, paint media, drawings, sculpture, works on paper, photography, ceramic, sculpture and textile.
- 1.5. Entries must be submitted online, and the artist will be asked to provide:
 - 1.5.1. personal and contact details (including name, address, contact number and email address);
 - 1.5.2. a written statement in third person about the artist (not more than 50 words);
 - 1.5.3. a written statement in first person about the work(s) (not more than 50 words per work);
 - 1.5.4. details of the work (title, year of completion, medium, size); and
 - 1.5.5. one image (in jpeg format) of each work (not exceeding 4MB in size for each work).
- 1.6. A non-refundable AUD\$40.00 entry fee (incl GST) must be paid per artist. Entries will not be accepted until the entry fee and information detailed above have been received.
- 1.7. Properly completed entries (with accompanying entry fee) must be received before 11.59pm 20th July 2026.
- 1.8. 2D works must not exceed 2 metres in any dimension (not including frame). Multi-panel 2D works will be accepted and regarded as one work, but no dimension (when taking the works together) may exceed 2 metres in any dimension. Works must not exceed 10kg per panel.
- 1.9. 3D works must not exceed 1 metre in any dimension and must not exceed 20kg.

2. Judging and Exhibition Criteria, and consignment of works

- 2.1. The Art Award involves two rounds of judging. The Judges will select finalist works from the online entries accepted.
- 2.2. Finalists will be notified via email by 3rd August 2026, and artists must confirm their participation in the Exhibition by returning their completed exhibition agreement to UniSQ by close of business on 7th August 2026 5pm. Upon return of the exhibition agreement, finalists work will be accepted for the Exhibition.
- 2.3. Finalist works must be delivered by the artist (at the artist's expense) to the UniSQ Art Gallery between 17th - 21st August 2026 (and between 10am–3pm), and must be clearly labelled with artist name, address, phone number, title of work, year of completion, medium, and be accompanied by instructions for installation.
- 2.4. In addition to meeting weight and dimension requirements, 2D finalist works (including works on paper) must be suitably framed for hanging and must have 'D' rings and hanging wire. Works on stretched canvas are considered framed and must also have 'D' rings and wire. Wet paintings will not be accepted and works with framing considered excessive by UniSQ may not be hung in the Exhibition.
- 2.5. The Exhibition will be open during regular gallery hours from 1st September – 2nd October 2026.

- 2.6. The Judges will select award-winning works (other than the People's Choice Award). Judging criteria is based on three equally evaluated criteria of technical skill, originality and conceptual strength. The Judges' decisions will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 2.7. The Overall Winner and the Emerging Artist Award will be announced at the Opening Event on Friday 4th September 2026.
- 2.8. The People's Choice Award winner will be announced via UniSQ's social media channels by close of business 2nd October 2026 on the closure of the Exhibition.
- 2.9. At UniSQ's discretion, select finalists may be invited to facilitate a paid workshop, aligned with their practice, for members of the public as part of the public programming for the Exhibition.
- 2.10. Artists providing finalist works agree that:
 - 2.10.1. images of their works and their biographical information supplied on entry may be used for the purposes of advertising and publicising the Exhibition (in addition to any other use permitted by the exhibition agreement);
 - 2.10.2. apart from the works that are awarded the Overall Winner and Emerging Artist Award (which will be acquired by UniSQ in exchange for the award money, with copyright remaining with the artist), all finalist works must be offered for sale at the Exhibition on the terms of the exhibition agreement, and UniSQ will retain a 25% commission of the sale price of those works, if sold during the Exhibition; and
 - 2.10.3. works must remain available for the duration of the Exhibition.