



Eagle Gallery Artists

Who are we?

We are a non-profit making collective of Bedfordshire artists, formed specifically to run The Eagle Gallery, Bedford.

What do we do?

We opened the gallery in April 2005 and aim to widen access to the arts in Bedfordshire through:

- exhibiting and selling original artwork by local artists at reasonable prices;
- developing arts activities and events for the local community.

We produce and show work in a variety of media – painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass, collage and photographs are all represented at different times. We want the gallery to be dynamic with exhibitions changing every month and each year there are some themed exhibitions and occasional solo and small group shows.

We are developing the garden to the rear of the gallery and bookshop to create an attractive and versatile space where we can:

- exhibit larger sculptures and installations;
- run activities and events for the local community;
- accommodate guests at private views.

We also run a programme of workshops in the local community and at the gallery. To help us fund future developments, we are actively seeking grant aid and are exploring corporate membership and sponsorship.

How are we run?

At the moment we are an unincorporated association consisting of around 40 members. Our members are committed to making a practical contribution to the running and development of the gallery. The minimum expectation is that members help to staff the gallery on a rota basis, but most of us do much more – including curating, decorating, gardening and cleaning! We do not employ any staff and provide all the labour and expertise ourselves.

Members elect a committee to manage the gallery and plan its development and we are working towards setting up a limited company and applying for charitable status.

Where are we?

The Eagle Gallery is at 101, Castle Road, Bedford, MK40 3QP, near the junction with Bushmead Avenue. The gallery is open from 10.00am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday. You can contact us by telephone on 01234 346995 during opening hours or email Martin Mathews at mathewsmrt@aol.com

Benefits of Membership ...

We have set a limit of 45 Members for practical reasons, largely due to limitations of space in which to show work, but from time to time we have vacancies for new Members. As a Member, you will enjoy a wide range of benefits:

- You will have an equal share in the gallery – and an equal voice in running the gallery. You will join a lively group of fellow artists and benefit from the social and professional network this provides.
- You will be invited to submit two works for exhibition for each open show and at least one of these will be shown – at least ten works a year in a professional exhibition space!
- We can be more flexible with 3D work as there are fewer artists showing work of this kind. We have two display cabinets, several plinths and a large paved garden in which to display outdoor work.
- We also have several browsers in the gallery for unframed works on paper. You may put in the browsers up to five pictures at any time – and change these as often as you wish.
- You may promote your work through our website, where you can display up to 30 images. We do not sell work directly through the website, but can provide you with a link to your own site.
- We keep an Artists' Folder in the gallery, in which we allocate you two A4 pages to describe your background and your work. We also carry stocks of members' business cards.
- You will benefit from the media exposure the gallery can bring. We have already had several mentions in the local and national press and are continuously developing new ways of publicising the gallery.

Your commitment ...

You must live in Bedfordshire and pay an annual subscription, currently £125. You must also be committed to making a practical contribution to the running of the gallery. This includes helping to staff the gallery, which involves the equivalent of about one day per month.

Please remember that we only exhibit original artwork. This embraces work in any media, including original prints and photographs but does not include reproductions - except as greetings cards. You are, of course, welcome to promote prints and any other aspects of your work on our website or in the Artists' Folder in the gallery.

In order to keep our overheads as low as possible, you are responsible for arranging your own insurance for your artwork. Please note that while we remain an unincorporated association, our members are collectively responsible for any liabilities and debts incurred by the association or the gallery. We do, however, take all reasonable steps to minimise risk and we hold public liability insurance cover for £2 million.

How to apply - and our special offers!

Please fill in the enclosed form to go on the **Waiting List**. While you are on the Waiting List, we can offer you automatic consideration of your application each time there is a vacancy and:

- your own page on our **Virtual Gallery** at www.eaglegalleryartists.co.uk for an annual subscription of £30 where you can show up to ten images and biographical details;
- membership of **Friends of the Gallery** for an annual subscription of £25 which will entitle you to invitations to private views, priority booking for events and a discount on some purchases.

Please indicate on your application if you would like to take up one or both of these offers!

NB If you decide not to return the form you will not be placed on the waiting list and will need to contact us again if you wish to be considered for membership at a later date.

Application for Membership



Your contact details

First Name Last Name

Telephone: Mobile

Email Website

Home address

.....

.....Postcode

Your work as an artist

Please provide us with the following in whatever way suits you best:

- A brief statement about your work and development as an artist.
- A few images of recent work, preferably on a CD.
If this is not possible, please provide photographs or scans, not transparencies.

We will retain your details and images on file so that we can refer to them each time there is a vacancy. We undertake not to use your images for any other purpose or to pass on your details to anyone else.

You may also add:

- Anything you want to tell us about your background
- Any special skills you would bring to running the gallery

Please tick the boxes which apply ...

I would like to join the **Waiting List** and agree to this application and the images I have supplied being held on file (*please do **not** enclose your subscription now*)

I would also like to show my work on the **Virtual Gallery** and have enclosed a cheque for £30

I would also like to join the **Friends of the Eagle Gallery** and have enclosed a cheque for £25

Cheques should be made payable to "Eagle Gallery Artists"

Signed Date

Please send your completed application to: Martin Mathews, EGA Membership Secretary, Escheat Stables, Woburn Road, Lidlington, Beds, MK43 0NL. If you need any further information, telephone 01234 765042 or email mathewsmrt@aol.com