

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 original work in a variety of media – painting, prints, sculpture, ceramics, glass, collage and photographs are all represented. We want the gallery to be dynamic with exhibitions changing regularly and each year there are some themed exhibitions, 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 are planning to further develop our programme of lectures, workshops, demonstrations and classes and are particularly interested in applications from artists who can help to make these happen.

How are we run?

At the moment we are an unincorporated association consisting of 45 members, managed by a small committee. All 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.

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.

Membership querie You can contact the membership secretary direct by telephone on 01234 358213 or by email to davidoversby-powell@hotmail.co.uk

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. We run occasional gallery visits and social events for members, family and friends.

We change our exhibitions very regularly, usually every four weeks, so that the gallery is always fresh and exciting for visitors - and to maximise opportunities for members to show new work.

You will be invited to submit two works for exhibition in each open show and at least one of these will be shown – that's between ten and twenty works a year in a professional exhibition space!

We also have several browsers in the gallery for unframed works on paper, card or board. You may put in the browsers up to five pictures at any time – and change these as often as you wish.

We can be even more flexible with 3D work as there are fewer artists showing work of this kind.

We have two display cabinets and several plinths and can also display outdoor work in the garden.

We run six one-week shows each year, each given over to a solo show for one of our members or a small group show. These are planned a year at a time and all members can request a slot.

You may also hire the gallery and garden at a very reasonable for a special occasion as long as this does not conflict with our programme of exhibitions and events.

You may promote your work through our website, where you can display up to 10 images. We do not sell work directly through the website, but can provide you with a link to your own site. All the images currently on the website are also shown on a continuous slide show in the gallery. We keep an Artists' Folder in the gallery, in which we allocate you two A4 pages for an artist's statement and images of your work.

You will benefit from the media exposure the gallery can bring. We have had several mentions in the local and national press and are continuously developing new ways of publicising the gallery.

The bottom line ...

As a co-operative we depend entirely on the efforts of our members to run and develop the gallery. This means that joining Eagle Gallery Artists is a serious commitment and not just a chance to show your work!

You **must** pay an annual subscription, currently £150. You **must** make 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.

You will be asked to help with organising gallery events, hanging exhibitions and in the developing of new projects. You will also be invited to attend private views and quarterly general meetings – and coming to at least some of these is an important part of belonging to the group. You will pay a commission, currently 30%, to the gallery for each sale at the gallery or new introduction via the website.

Please note 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. Please note that it is a condition of membership that you agree to images of your work being used for the purposes of publicity by the gallery. The gallery holds public liability insurance of £2 million but in order to keep our overheads as low as possible, you are responsible for the insurance for your own artwork.

If you decide not to return the attached application form at this stage 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, including anything you want to tell us about your background and any special skills you would bring to running the gallery;

a few images of some recent work, preferably as an attachment to an e-mail, if this is not possible, please provide photographs or scans, but not transparencies or images on a CD.

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.

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** while I am on the Waiting List 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: David Oversby- Powell, 10 Barnstaple Road, Bedford, MK40 3AP or by e-mail to: davidoversby-powell@hotmail.co.uk