

Paint What Matters!

Art by Children and Young People in Cambridge

26 February – 9 March 2025

If you are aged 4 – 21 years, and living or studying in Cambridge, this is an opportunity to create artwork and see it displayed at Kettle's Yard. Find out how to get involved below.

What is 'Paint What Matters!'?

Paint What Matters! will be a unique exhibition at Kettle's Yard celebrating the talent and creativity of children and young people in Cambridge. The exhibition will run from 26 February – 9 March 2025.

If you are a young artist (aged 4– 21) living or studying in Cambridge City we invite you to paint what matters to you today! Whatever that may be, and in any artistic style or medium, from local to global issues; from your home to our shared planet; from love for families, friends and communities to concern for nature, animals and the environment. We want your artworks to show us what matters to you and to fill our gallery walls.

Read on to find out how you (or your children) can get involved.

Guidelines and FAQs

Who can take part?

Children and young people aged 4 – 21 years old living and/or attending school within the [Cambridge City Council wards](#). For children under the age of 18, work will need to be submitted with the help and permission of their parents.

Schools with pupils aged 4 – 21 years old within the [Cambridge City Council wards](#) can also apply with a selection of entries. Please refer to more information in the **Open Call for Schools** section of the website.

How do I take part?

Keen to participate? Read these guidelines and FAQs first – make especially sure to check our size and material requirements. Then have fun creating your artworks! We want all artworks to express what matters to children and young people in Cambridge today, and we hope you enjoy the process of making your artwork.

Once you've made your artworks, complete our online entry form. Kettle's Yard aims to respond within two working weeks to all entries.

If you've heard back with a confirmation from us that we will be displaying your artwork, we'll provide next steps on how to hand in or deliver your art to us. The exhibition will be open from 26 February to 9 March 2025 – be sure to keep these dates free and you can come and see your artwork on display at Kettle's Yard!

When and how will my artwork be displayed?

Paint What Matters! will display all your fantastic submissions across the two main gallery spaces of Kettle's Yard, as well as the walls between the gallery spaces. Each artwork will be fixed to the gallery walls within a huge grid, so we can display as many artworks as possible. We think it will look spectacular!

Kettle's Yard curators will be responsible for positioning all the works in the exhibition. Young artists will not be required to be present during the installation.

Kettle's Yard reserves the right to refuse an artwork should it not comply with our guidelines or values.

Is anything allowed, or does my artwork need to take a particular form?

We encourage you to get creative as possible and let your ideas run wild. However, to display as many artworks as possible, we can only accept artworks which comply with our guidelines and values. Read on to check what types of artworks we can accept and remember to keep these guidelines in mind as you get making!

→ What size can my artwork be?

Your artwork can be any size up to 40 x 40 cm, or A3 sized paper (29.7 x 42 cm). We won't be able to accept works for exhibition that are larger than these dimensions.

→ What shape can my artwork be?

Your artwork can be square, rectangular or any other shape that you would like. Just keep the dimensions in mind (no larger than 40 x 40cm or 29.7 x 42 cm).

→ What materials can I use?

- Use light weight paper or card (no thicker than as used for a cereal box).
- Please do not mount or frame any of the artwork.
- Please do not use canvas.
- The artwork created must be 2-dimensional so it can be easily fixed to the gallery wall.
- Please do not use glitter – it gets everywhere!

You are welcome to use paint, pastels, crayons, collage etc to create your artwork. We encourage you to use colour, and to be as bold and expressive as you wish. We are excited to see what you make!

→ **Can I submit an artwork I've already made?**

We are looking for artworks created especially for the exhibition in 2024 or 2025 by children and young people because the exhibition aims to spotlight what matters to children and young people in Cambridge today.

Other essential steps

- Please label the back of your artwork with the young artist's name/initials, the title of your artwork, and your age.
- Please note we will be using adhesive to secure the artworks to the gallery walls for exhibition. There may be some marks left on the back of the artwork from the adhesive at the end of the exhibition.
- Artworks created must be original, not reproductions (photographs or photocopies of artworks won't be accepted for exhibition).
- Kettle's Yard reserves the right to refuse an artwork should it not comply with our organisational [values](#).

I've made my artwork. How do I submit my entry?

If you've made an artwork that follows our size and material guidelines, we can't wait to see it. Submit your entry online via our website between 14 October 2024 and 27 January 2025. We encourage you to submit your entry as soon as possible as entry spots are limited and will be filled on a first come first served basis.

Click [here](#) to complete the online entry form.

What do I need to complete the online entry form?

The entry form asks for a digital photo of your artwork, some basic information about you and your artwork, and contact details to assist us with coordinating the project.

For applicants under 18 years old please have your parent and/or carer/guardian complete the entry form. For applicants over 18 years old, please complete the form with your contact details.

We will ask for the following information:

- If applicable, the young artist's parent/carer/guardian name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Postcode of your home or place of study
- How you heard about *Paint What Matters!*
- Permission for the young person and their artwork to be a part of the *Paint What Matters!* exhibition

These details will not be shared publicly and are stored only for the purposes of this project in line with our [privacy policy](#).

We will also ask for:

- A digital photograph of the artwork entry
- Young artist's name (or initials if preferred) and age
- Title of artwork
- Size of artwork
- What materials were used to make the artwork
- When the artwork was made
- (Optional) A short statement (up to 10 words) to describe what your artwork is about and/or what matters to you

This information will help us plan and install the exhibition.

When should I submit an entry?

In an ideal world we could exhibit thousands of artworks, but unfortunately our spaces don't quite stretch that far. The submissions for *Paint What Matters!* are open from 14 October 2024 to Monday 27 January 2025, unless we fill all the allocated entry spots prior. We would encourage you to submit your entries as soon as possible, as spots will be filled on a first come first served basis.

Can I submit more than one artwork?

We can only accept one artwork per child or young person in the open call out.

However, we understand that you may be a parent/guardian/carer submitting one entry for multiple children or young people in your family or care. In this case, we ask that you submit one entry form online for each individual child or young person submitting an artwork.

Can I submit a collaborative artwork?

Painted with your sibling or friend? Yes, we welcome collaborative artwork, if made by children and young people aged 4 – 21 years old that meets our material guidelines.

What happens after I submit my entry form? When will I hear back from Kettle's Yard?

When you submit the open call out entry form online, you will receive an email confirming your submission. Please note that this is not confirmation that your work will be displayed, as all works submitted will be subject to review.

After we have reviewed your work against our guidelines, you will receive a further email confirming the acceptance of your work into the exhibition. We will review submissions and confirm works for display on a rolling basis until submissions close on 27 January 2025. We aim to respond to all applicants within two working weeks of submission.

How do I deliver the artwork to Kettle's Yard?

Heard back from us with a confirmation that we will be displaying your artwork? Your next step is to deliver that to us for safe keeping until the exhibition on our drop-

off weekend: Saturday 1 February and Sunday 2 February 2025. Kettle's Yard will be open for you to drop-by and hand in your artwork to us. Come in at any point between 11am and 4pm. We can't wait to see you and see what you have created!

When you arrive at Kettle's Yard, come to the Information Desk and a member of staff will help you find the Clore Learning Studio – our drop-off area for *Paint What Matters!*. The Studio is located on level -1 and is accessible via stairs or lift.

Handing in your artwork should only take a few minutes. To make the most of your visit, why not pair dropping off your artwork with a visit to the Kettle's Yard house, our exhibition, or our shop and café? [Plan your visit here.](#)

If you have, or foresee, any difficulties with accessing Kettle's Yard for the *Paint What Matters!* drop-off days or submission please contact us at paint@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk. We will be happy to assist.

I can't come into Kettle's Yard during the drop-off weekend. Can I send my artwork to Kettle's Yard in the post?

If we have confirmed that we would like to display your artwork, but you are unable to come to Kettle's Yard to hand it in to us, you can deliver it in the post at your cost. Please ensure the artwork arrives to Kettle's Yard before Wednesday 5 February 2025.

Please address the post to:

Kettle's Yard
Re: Paint What Matters! artwork entry
Castle St
Cambridge
CB3 0AQ

Please ensure you pay sufficient postage as we will be unable to pay any postage remaining charges.

Do you have to pay to submit an artwork?

It is free to submit an entry for the *Paint What Matters!* exhibition. You will, however, need to factor in any costs involved in bringing your artwork to Kettle's Yard on the *Paint What Matters!* drop-off weekend (Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 February 2025) and collecting your work at the end of the exhibition (Saturday 15 & Sunday 26 March 2025).

Please note that artworks cannot be posted in return. You must collect your artwork.

Is there a selection process?

No, there is no special selection or judging for *Paint What Matters!*.

Our entries are open for submissions between 14 October 2024 and 27 January 2025, unless all entry slots are filled prior. All entries will be reviewed against our exhibition guidelines and organisational values, and decisions made by Kettle's Yard regarding whether an artwork can be displayed or not will be final.

Are there prizes?

There are no prizes for this exhibition, just a big celebration of young people's voices, creativity and what matters to them!

Are the artworks for sale?

Kettle's Yard will not facilitate the sale of any works submitted for or presented in the *Paint What Matters!* exhibition.

Do I get my artwork back after the exhibition?

Yes! Please come and collect your artwork from Kettle's Yard on our *Paint What Matters!* collection weekend: Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 March 2025. Kettle's Yard will be open between 11am – 4pm this weekend for artwork collection.

When you arrive at Kettle's Yard, come to the Information Desk and a member of staff will help you find the Clore Learning Studio – our drop-off area for *Paint What Matters!*. The Studio is located on level -1 and is accessible via stairs or lift.

After 9 April 2025, work that has not been collected will not be stored. If you have, or foresee, any difficulties with accessing Kettle's Yard for the *Paint What Matters!* collection days please contact us at paint@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk to discuss alternative arrangements.

What are the key dates?

- Open Call Out: **Monday 14 October 2024 – Monday 27 January 2025**. Create your artwork and then submit it to us for review using our online entry form. As entry spots are limited, the Open Call Out window may close prior to 27 January 2025. We encourage you to submit your entry as soon as possible.
- Artwork drop-off weekend: **Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 February 2025**. Come into Kettle's Yard and hand in your artwork.
- *Paint What Matters!* exhibition open: **Wednesday 26 February – Sunday 9 March 2025**.
- Artwork collection weekend: **Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 March 2025**. Retrieve your artwork from Kettle's Yard and keep it for yourself!

Do you have a waiting list?

Missed the submission deadline and wondering if there is a waiting list? Yes, we have a waiting list in case of last-minute entry cancellations or exhibition changes. Please

email paint@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk with your contact details, and we will be in touch if the opportunity to submit arises.

I have a question about 'Paint What Matters!'. Who do I contact?

If you have a question about the exhibition or need help completing the online entry form, please contact us at paint@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk and we will be happy to assist.