## Artist Support Bursaries for Dorset Art Weeks 2027

Dorset Visual Arts is excited to announce four Artist Support Bursaries for next year's Dorset Art Weeks event.

'Open DAWS' recognises that some early career Artists, and those facing certain barriers can require additional support to help them participate in events such as Dorset Art Weeks. Other factors might include being new to an area, rebuilding networks or returning to studio practice after a break.

Thanks to generous support from BeauxArtz, each Bursary includes:

- Free entry in the Dorset Art Weeks Guide worth £200, in print (35,000 copies) and online
- Support costs (materials) up to the value of £200
- One year's DVA Membership worth up to £50, including access to DVA marketing resources
- One mentoring + one group support session to help with Event participation planning
- Professional PR and Marketing support for Dorset Art Weeks across DVA and DAW channels to the value of £500
- General admin support from DVA including help with securing venues

There is no requirement to develop or change practice, only to support artists either to establish their practice or benefit from taking part and acquiring feedback from new audiences. However, the bursary is intended to have a meaningful impact on an artist's next stage of development.

We know that an opportunity like this can build experience and confidence and is of particular importance in a mainly rural county with pockets of isolation and lack of social mobility.

**Requirements**

- Artist to attend one mentoring and one support session
- Artist to engage with visiting and securing a venue so that they can participate in Dorset Art Weeks (registrations open 2 November 2026)
- Artist to submit their venue details via the registration form on the Dorset Art Weeks website
- Artist to open their venue for a minimum of 6 days during Dorset Art Weeks (allows for weekend-only participants) and to engage with audiences and visitors

- Artist to produce a reflective account of the opportunity, learnings and development

## Criteria

These Bursaries are aimed at those taking their first steps into professional arts practice, returning to creative practice after a career break or change, or who may face barriers to participating in Dorset Art Weeks.

- The bursaries are suitable for those who are Emerging in their practice, which is defined as **any one of** the following:

- Artists and Makers aged 18 - 25 **or**:

- Those in full time education **or**:

- Those who have recently completed a relevant arts or design foundation degree, undergraduate/postgraduate degree, (in the last 3 years) **or**:

- Those returning to their practice after a significant break or career change

We welcome those who are currently underrepresented particularly those from less privileged backgrounds, including those who identify as D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds or living or working in areas of socio-economic deprivation, sole carer for elderly parents and children, and those who experience discrimination.

## Submit your application

Application Deadline: **Wednesday 25 November 2026 (5pm)**

Please submit:

- A 100 word statement, **in a Word Document**, saying how the bursary would benefit you, in relation to **at least one** of the above criteria
- A link to your CV/Website (preferred) OR up to 5 images sent as jpeg attachments, no more than 1MB each
- A bio - no more than two pages, **in a Word Document**, including your email, phone number and address/location
- A link to social media, preferably Instagram, but not necessary

We are committed to providing access to all our opportunities. If you wish to submit your application in a different format please arrange a phone call with us. Informal discussion is also welcome.

Please send applications to producer@dorsetartweeks.co.uk, subject line **DAW27 Artist Support Bursaries**

## Decisions

Decisions will be made by Dorset Visual Arts in consultation with BeauxArtz. Decisions will be final and not subject to further discussion or feedback. All candidates will be notified by **Wednesday 2 December 2026, 5pm.**

## Selection Process

Selection will be based upon the following:

- The potential impact of the bursary to allow participation in Dorset Art Weeks 2027 which would otherwise be deemed prohibitive
- Based on the selection criteria outlined above
- Availability to commit to the programme requirements including lead-in to the event and participation between 15-31 May 2027
- The spirit of these awards is about enabling participation when barriers, as outlined above, may otherwise prevent participation. Whilst not every criteria has to be met, we will evaluate applications based on need and merit.

Please note that we cannot provide individual feedback to non-selected artists.

*As this award is in conjunction with registration for Dorset Art Weeks, which closes on **9 December,** Dorset Visual Arts reserves the right to allow additional time for selection should the opportunity be oversubscribed.*

*If you wish to register for Dorset Art Weeks but have applied for the Bursary and are awaiting a decision, you should draft your Art Weeks submission details and submit this once decisions have been given.*