



Expression of interest guidelines

It Starts in the Backyard

The backyard is a place with expansive possibilities. It is a site where the personal meets the political, where the ordinary becomes symbolic, and where the quiet rhythms of daily life echo larger cultural, ecological, and social forces. *It Starts in the Backyard* invites artists to respond to this theme. Consider how this intimate, familiar space can act as a lens through which we understand the world around us.

This theme is open to creative interpretation and may inspire works exploring nature, local ecosystems, and our literal backyards. It may also prompt reflections on ideas of home, community, memory, identity, belonging, sustainability, food cultivation, neighbourhood connections, or the broader social and environmental issues that begin close to home. From barbecues and gatherings to planting, harvesting, observation and care, *It Starts in the Backyard* seeks works that reveal how everyday experiences connect to larger stories and shared futures.

Gallery 1855 encourages submissions of all mediums, including but not limited to:

- Painting
- Photography
- Printworks
- Textiles
- Sculpture and ceramics
- Jewellery

This exhibition is open to artists aged 16+ residing in South Australia, and especially encourages applications from artists who live, work or create in the City of Tea Tree Gully.

Please read the full selection criteria before submitting your application.

Eligibility and selection process

You can apply to be part of this exhibition if you are one or both of the following.

- A visual artist who lives in South Australia.
- A creative community member local to the City of Tea Tree Gully

Applicants must be 16 years and older.

Participation in this exhibition is by selection. This means automatic inclusion in this exhibition is not guaranteed by submitting your application.

Why is there a selection process?

We might receive many more applications of artworks that can fit comfortably in the Gallery, or we may not be able to accommodate an artwork for technical or ethical reasons.

The application and selection process take place in 2 stages:

1. Submission of your application form online.
2. Selection of participating exhibitors. We will notify you of the outcome the week beginning Monday 7 December.

Key dates

Applications close: Monday 30 November 2026

Applicants will be notified the week beginning Monday 7 December 2026

Artwork delivery date: Thursday 28 January 2027

Exhibition launch: Thursday 4 February 2027

Exhibition dates: Friday 5 February to Saturday 20 March 2027

Collection of work if unsold: Monday 22 March

Administration fee

Participation in this exhibition is free of charge.

Responding to the theme

Artists are encouraged to develop or submit work that demonstrates a connection to the theme, recognising that this theme may be interpreted in a variety of ways. Creative interpretation is highly encouraged.

Number of artworks, type of artwork and size of artwork

Number of artworks

You can submit one new or recent artwork. One artwork can be made up of a number of inter-related pieces (or components) but there are size limitations (refer below).

Type of artwork

The artwork can be contemporary or traditional, utilitarian or non-utilitarian. However, Gallery 1855 can refuse an art work because of technical reasons, sensitivity or ethical reasons.

For example, we will not accept artworks that display racism, offensive language or communicate negative ideas about others.

We will not display artworks that are structurally unsound or overly fragile. Also, we may not have the technical equipment to display certain artworks.

Size of artwork

Up to 1.5m square. Not over unless clearly negotiated and agreed upon in writing well before exhibition installation.

You can submit an artwork that has a number of parts. For example, 1 artwork can be made up of 10 individual small vessels, but all together they do not go over 1.5m square and are all part of the same theme or series.

Date the artwork was made

Artworks must not have been produced prior to January 2025.

How long will artworks be at Gallery 1855

Your artwork will be in the gallery from the time you deliver them and up until you collect them. After the collection date it will be your responsibility to take the artwork from the gallery. If you don't we can't ensure its safety.

Art work sales

Artworks are for sale. Gallery 1855 retains 30% commission (including GST on the commission) on the retail price of an artwork.

Exhibition agreement

If you are selected to participate in this exhibition we will forward an Exhibition Agreement for you to read, sign and return to us. This is where you find out more about selling your artwork, what time of the day you bring your artwork to the gallery, who is going to install your artwork, what time we want you to take your artwork from the gallery and more.

If you have any questions or need help with these guidelines and your application, please contact the Arts and Cultural Development Coordinator on 8397 7216, 0415 968 537 or email arts@cttg.sa.gov.au