

## ART-I Open Call for Artists

### **ARTificial Intelligence: Drawing the Line** **Exhibition: Winter 2025-26 | Nottingham, UK**

Artists and creative practitioners are invited to submit proposals for participation in *ARTificial Intelligence: Drawing the Line*, a group exhibition opening this winter in Nottingham. This exhibition forms part of a wider interdisciplinary research project examining the role of AI in artistic practice through a value-sensitive lens.

We welcome all visual art mediums. Submissions are open to artists from all backgrounds.

We will select up to three submitted applications. Successful artists will be invited to join the AI-UK's *ARTificial Intelligence: Show Me a Story About AI* research project as artist-participants.

Each successful application will be awarded £2,500 (inclusive of any applicable VAT) to produce outputs and participate as described and agreed through this call and award acceptance process.

The artworks will have their preview-launch reveal in Nottingham in November 2025, when they will feature in a Research Knowledge Exchange (RKE) event for a range of stakeholders. The projects' outputs will publicly launch for exhibition from January 2026 through to April 2026.

Deadline for application proposal submissions: 1st September 2025

Date of award announcement on ART-I's project web pages and to successful applicants:  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Deadline for artwork and accompanying materials to be delivered to exhibition organisers:  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Apply at: <https://forms.office.com/e/WNNgWsCStr>

### **About the Project**

*ARTificial Intelligence* ([art-i-project.github.io](http://art-i-project.github.io)) is an interdisciplinary research project involving the University of Nottingham, King's College London, The Open University, University of Southampton and the University of Warwick. The project is supported by EPSRC through funding from Responsible AI UK ([rai.ac.uk](http://rai.ac.uk)).

In conversation with creative communities, the project examines artists' experience, with particular attention to their personal values, and how they integrate AI (or not) in creative contexts.

Our initial findings reveal a set of critical tensions, including:

- Empowerment vs. disempowerment
- Tool vs. creative partner
- Democratisation vs. widening disparity
- Augmenting vs. replacing human creativity

We invite artists to explore these tensions and respond to the provocation: **Where do you draw the line?** Could AI be integrated into your creative process without compromising your values? In what ways, under which conditions, or up to what point, might that be possible? What does responsible AI in art mean to you?

## How to apply

Applying artists must be UK based.

To apply, please fill in this MSform: <https://forms.office.com/e/WNNgWsCStr>

We recommend you prepare your responses in Word or similar, then paste your prepared responses into the MSform. Successful applicants will be informed by 19th September 2025.

You will be asked to provide:

- For each contributing artist in the application, provide name, social media handle / contact details, artist bio, and profile brief. We ask for all contributing artists' name(s) so that everyone can be acknowledged. The £2500 is awarded to successful applications; this will be the amount awarded regardless of the number of artists included and the number of pieces of artwork produced.
- Brief description of the proposed artwork(s) (size, media) and accompanying materials, explaining how this meets the aims.
- Indicate whether AI tools or platforms are intended for use as part of workflow. If yes, describe how.
- Short reflection about how use of AI tools or platforms relate to ideas of authorship, ownership, responsibility and other ethical considerations.
- Portfolio of up to 3 previous visual projects for each contributor, e.g. links to website pages.
- Anything else you would like to tell us about.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact

[liz.dowthwaite@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:liz.dowthwaite@nottingham.ac.uk)

For up to date details of the output requirements see below and ART-I's project page: <https://art-i-project.github.io/>

## Further notes for Applicants - Award requirements and conditions of acceptance:

We expect the outputs from each successful application to take no more than the equivalent of seven days of work in total. £2,500 will be awarded to each of up to three successful applications regardless of the number of individual people acknowledged as contributors and the number of individual pieces proposed in an application proposal. The final award will be conditional on artworks being delivered as agreed.

The pieces of delivered artwork must be accompanied by content that chronicles, describes, documents, illustrates, or otherwise captures the creative process for the artwork(s) delivered.

The artwork and accompanying pieces may be produced in a range of formats. The artwork and accompanying descriptive materials must be provided in ready-to-exhibit physical form, on image or audiovisual / video files that are accessible: (videos must include audio descriptions and/or captions), an interactive piece, or other format by agreement with the organisers.

The following videos will be produced as part of the descriptive accompanying materials to compliment and accompany each art piece.

For each artwork, successful applicants will provide:

- A short video (3 to 5 minutes) describing, illustrating, or otherwise capturing the creative and production process, including details about any use of AI and reflections on values. The video must be produced to a professional quality with audio descriptions and/or captions.

- A short video (3 to 5 minutes) to promote and exhibit the art piece(s) e.g. for use in a video loop in a hybrid exhibition. The video must be produced to a professional quality with audio descriptions and/or captions.

Criterion for judging proposals to this call.

- Proposal complies with entry requirements:
  - Artwork(s) address the call's theme
  - Artwork(s) meet space constraints (third or less of display space in City Arts window)
  - Artwork(s) is feasible within timeframe available (approx 7 days work)
- Compelling content proposed from interpretation of the event's theme
- Creative and original idea proposed
- Artistic and / or technical skill demonstrated through previous works.
- Appropriate media proposed
  - proposed artwork(s) make the most of its medium,
  - proposed artwork(s) use the medium to its advantage
  - proposed media is compatible with exhibition space

Proposals will be judged by members of the research project team, our advisory board, and our partner organisations. Employees from their organisations are prohibited from entering an application to this Open Call.

The Research project team are:

- Liz Dowthwaite - University of Nottingham
- Pepita Barnard - University of Nottingham
- Sarah Kiden - University of Southampton
- Eike Schneiders - University of Southampton
- Deborah Olukan - King's College London
- Imke van Heerden - King's College London
- Aisling Third - Open University
- Joshua Kelsall - University of Warwick

The advisory board members are:

- Steve Benford - University of Nottingham
- Alan Chamberlain - University of Nottingham
- Joel Fischer - University of Nottingham
- Elvira Perez Vallejos - University of Nottingham
- Lucy Veale - University of Nottingham
- Kate Devlin - Kings College London
- Nick Bryan-Kinns – University of the Arts London
- Reema Patel – independent consultant
- Jack Stilgoe University College London

The project partner organisations are:

- Albino Mosquito
- R3 Network
- Blast Theory
- Creative UK

Award recipients (contributing artists) must commit, at a minimum, to attend either the RKE event being held in Nottingham in November 2025 or the exhibition's public launch in early January 2026, also in Nottingham, to introduce themselves and their artwork(s) to audiences. Awardees may attend both events if able to. These two events are likely to be held in the afternoon or evening. The research project will cover reasonable travel expenses for artists to attend. The award recipients must commit to engage with interviews and discussion groups as part of the exhibit's RKE and public launch event. The awardees must fit their artistic outputs into the space allocated to them. Each awarded application may be allocated up to one third of the available space in City Arts display window in Nottingham.



Nottingham's Central Library will exhibit digital outputs in their Huddle (on four large screens) and a limited number of items may be displayed in their atrium. The main focus of artworks in the library's atrium is expected to be from recent workshops. The Huddle will display digital outputs from the workshop artists and this call's awardees.

Flythrough Tour of Nottingham Central Library on YouTube HERE:

<https://youtu.be/AQ4Q-G81vHI?feature=shared>

As part of accepting the award, the Intellectual Property Rights of the created pieces and accompanying materials (outputs) will belong to the award recipients who created the art. Award recipients agree to the conditions of the submission as described, including permitting the University of Nottingham to present and exhibit the outputs for research knowledge exchange and exhibition from November 2025 till April 2026.

Reproductions (i.e. photos or files) of the artworks and accompanying materials may be used by the RAI-UK's ARTifical Intelligence: Show Me a Story About AI project researchers for research, publications, presentations, public engagement, RKE, and other non-commercial purposes.

Awardees will be provided with further detailed information to inform their efforts including summaries of researchers' recent findings.