

**Notes for applying to take part in PAOS (Pocklington Area Open Studios) 2026**  
**16 & 17 May 2026, 10am to 5pm daily**  
**Participation fee £75**

**Overview:**

PAOS is an established annual event where local professional artists and makers open their doors to welcome visitors into their specialist working environments. It is an opportunity that the public look forward to and enjoy as they can meet creative industries practitioners, see their work and find out about the contrasting approaches participating artists/makers employ when creating their original exhibits.

PAOS has grown from an initial event in 2011 as part of Craft and Design month, a national event. The first week in May had been designated 'National Ceramics Week', and five ceramic artists hosted guest artists/makers to highlight the range of ceramics and other artworks being produced in the Pocklington area. Visitors were delighted to see and purchase locally produced work, view specialist resources and in some cases attend demonstrations of techniques employed in the creation of original artworks.

Since that first event, the number of participating artists/makers has increased year on year, successfully celebrating the breadth and quality of original work produced by committed creative practitioners in our area.

PAOS is a self funding event, run on a voluntary basis by a group of its members, who are established, locally based artists/makers.

**1: Eligibility, selection criteria and code of practice**

Applications to participate are invited from professional art/craft practitioners who have a genuine association with Pocklington and the surrounding area.

Successful applicants will need to provide evidence of a collection of their own original artworks. The collection should identify a clear personal aim reflected through finished pieces, showing considered application of materials.

Applicants whose work reflects unacceptable subject matter (ie obscene, racist, extremist views) will automatically be rejected.

**2: Application and selection process**

A panel made up of PAOS members that meets periodically will make selection based on information as submitted in the application form.

Successful applicants will be informed by email, and upon paying the participation fee by the agreed deadline they will be included in this event. They will also be eligible to apply for future PAOS events without further selection. This is a popular event and it may be necessary to cap the number of venues and artists. Artists are encouraged to share venues where possible. Selection and inclusion in PAOS2026 may be dependent upon the artist's willingness to share a venue, and assistance will be offered by the steering group to match artists and venues. In general, venues with more than one artist attract more visitors than solo or isolated venues.

The decision of the selection panel is final, and individuals are asked not to request, and will not receive feedback or discussion pertaining to unsuccessful applications.

**3: Insurance**

You are responsible for having valid public and product liability insurance.

**4: Dates and times**

PAOS 2026 will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026, from 10am to 5pm each day. Exhibitors must be in attendance throughout.

**5: Artworks**

Only original items which have been made by you, in your artistic practice, can be offered for sale, i.e. no items bought in by you for resale, or made by any other person/s. Cards / prints / fabrics etc made to your designs are acceptable.

**6: Brief description of work** – to be used in the brochure

Describe your work in terms of what medium/media you use, the subject matter or inspiration. Do not refer to yourself (e.g. 'paintings and prints based on the East Yorkshire landscape...', **not** 'I make paintings and prints based on ...')

**7: Artist's statement**

Up to 80 words about your work which may be used on the website and/or in press releases. These may include some personal background, and should be written in the third person.

**8: Images**

Send between **3 and 4 square images** of your recent work and 1 of yourself working, approximately 1024 x 1024 px (each about 1MB). Failure to provide square images may lead to them being cropped. They should be jpegs, and the file name should be your name and a sequential number (e.g. bwood1, bwood2 etc). They must be attached to the email with your application form. The images should be representative of the work visitors will see at the event.

You may state a preference of which image to use in the brochure, but the designer will have final say to ensure it fits in with the overall look and layout.

**9: Venue**

An acceptable venue is the artist's own creative work space or home, not a hired or unrelated space, and may be shared with other selected artists.

**10: Disabled Access**

Give a brief description of the type of access available – e.g. 'all work is on the ground floor' 'accessed via a gravel drive'

**11: Deadlines**

The completed form must be returned by email to [barbara.wood99@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.wood99@btinternet.com) by 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Applicants will be notified of the decision by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

**12: Fee**

The participation fee is £75, and must be paid, preferably by bank transfer, by 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Selected applicants will be given bank details with their invitation to participate.

**13: Event promotion**

Brochures and posters will be produced, and a press release circulated to local publications, as well as the website and social media. In addition, all participants must help to publicise the event, including placing event signage, using your personal contacts and social media, and providing information as required for general publicity.

**By paying the participation fee, you are agreeing to abide by the terms and conditions above. Any failure to do so will make you ineligible for all future PAOS events.**