

Paint out at Royal William Yard

Your guide to making the most of the day

Saturday 3 October | 11am–3pm
Royal William Yard

Part of Artober at Royal William Yard

Whether you're a seasoned plein-air painter or this is your first time creating outdoors, RWY Paint Out is all about finding a view that inspires you, setting up your kit and enjoying a few hours of creativity in the unique surroundings of Royal William Yard.

To help you make the most of your day, we've put together some useful information, tips and things to remember before you arrive.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

What is RWY Paint Out?

RWY Paint Out is an outdoor painting and drawing event inspired by the tradition of *plein air* painting – creating artwork outside, directly from the landscape and environment around you.

Artists will have from **11am until 3pm** to create an original artwork inspired by Royal William Yard.

A selection of designated locations will be identified around the Yard, offering different perspectives on its historic buildings, architecture, waterfront and surrounding landscape.

At the end of the Paint Out, finished artworks will be brought together in the Melville Building for judging at **4pm**.

Prizes will be awarded, and the top five artworks will be selected to feature in the RWY Artober Exhibition from 23 October–1 November.

Do I need to be an experienced artist?

Not at all.

RWY Paint Out is about celebrating creativity and seeing Royal William Yard through the eyes of the people taking part.

Experienced artists, enthusiastic amateurs and those relatively new to painting or drawing outdoors are all welcome.

There's no prescribed style – we're looking forward to seeing lots of different interpretations of the Yard.

What medium can I use?

The choice is yours.

You can work in oils, acrylics, watercolours, gouache, pastels, pencils, charcoal, ink or mixed media.

Whatever you choose, please remember that you'll be working outdoors in a public place, so your set-up needs to be safe, manageable and respectful of the environment and other visitors to Royal William Yard.

What size should my artwork be?

Your finished artwork should be no larger than:

Maximum artwork size: 16 x 20 inches (approximately 40 x 50cm).

Your surface can be canvas, board, paper or another suitable artist's surface.

Please arrive with it **completely blank**.

Only artwork started and completed at Royal William Yard during the Paint Out will qualify for judging.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Think of your kit as your portable studio for the day.

You'll need to bring **everything you need to create your artwork**, as materials and equipment will not be provided.

Depending on your chosen medium, you may want to bring:

- Your blank canvas, board or paper
- Paints, pencils, pastels, inks or other chosen materials
- Brushes and palette
- Palette knife
- Pencils and eraser
- Easel or pochade box
- Lightweight folding stool or chair
- Small portable table, if required
- Water in a secure container for water-based paints
- A secure, lidded container for any painting solvents
- Kitchen roll, cloths or rags

- Wet wipes or hand-cleaning supplies
- Bulldog clips or masking tape – particularly useful on a breezy day
- A sketchbook for planning your composition
- Viewfinder, if you use one
- Rubbish bags or sealable bags for used cloths and materials
- A suitable carrier for getting your finished artwork safely to judging – and home again
- Floor covering

Top tip: Outdoor painting usually means carrying your kit some distance, so try not to bring your entire studio! A simple, portable set-up containing the materials you know you'll use can make the day much more enjoyable.

DRESS FOR PLYMOUTH, NOT THE FORECAST!

October weather on the waterfront can be changeable, so come prepared.

Comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing and footwear are essential.

Layers are a good idea, along with a waterproof jacket. A hat can be useful in both sunshine and light rain, and you may also want to bring sun cream.

Remember that you may be sitting or standing in one location for several hours – it can feel considerably cooler than it does when you're walking around.

And don't forget the wind. A waterfront breeze and a lightweight easel can be an interesting combination!

Make sure your equipment is stable and avoid leaving loose paper, packaging or lightweight materials where they could blow away.

FOOD, DRINK & BREAKS

Four hours can disappear surprisingly quickly when you're painting.

Remember to keep yourself hydrated and take a break when you need one.

Royal William Yard has a range of places where you can purchase food and drink during your visit, or you may prefer to bring your own water, flask, snacks or packed lunch.

Just make sure you leave yourself enough time to finish your artwork by 3pm.

CHOOSING YOUR VIEW

Ahead of the event, all registered artists will receive details of the designated RWY Paint Out locations prior to the event.

These have been selected to offer a variety of views and inspiration around Royal William Yard.

Once you've registered on the day, choose the location and view that speaks to you.

You might be drawn to:

The architecture – strong lines, stonework, windows, archways and the monumental historic buildings.

The waterfront – boats, reflections, changing water, Plymouth Sound and the landscape beyond.

The details – your artwork doesn't necessarily need to capture a huge panorama. An interesting doorway, architectural detail or smaller section of the Yard could make an equally compelling composition.

Light and atmosphere – one of the joys – and challenges – of painting outdoors is that the scene changes around you. Clouds move, shadows shift, boats come and go and the light evolves throughout the day.

Don't feel you need to include everything you can see. Decide what attracted you to the view in the first place and make that the focus of your artwork.

A FEW PLEIN-AIR TIPS

Take five before you start

You have four hours, so resist the temptation to immediately reach for the paint.

Spend a few minutes looking at your chosen scene.

Think about your composition, where you want the viewer's eye to go and what you can leave out.

A quick thumbnail sketch can help you settle on your composition before committing to your main piece.

Think big shapes first

It can be tempting to get lost in Royal William Yard's architectural details.

Try establishing your main shapes, proportions, light and dark areas first. You can add those beautiful details as the painting develops.

Remember, the light will move

The view at 1pm probably won't look exactly as it did at 11am.

Rather than chasing every change in light, try to remember the atmosphere and lighting that first attracted you to the scene and use that as your guide.

Give yourself a finishing time

Judging isn't until 4pm, but your Paint Out ends at **3pm**.

Try to give yourself a little time before 3pm to stand back, look at the whole piece and make those final decisions rather than painting right up to the last second.

And remember – knowing when to stop is part of the art!

RESPECTING THE YARD

Royal William Yard will remain open to residents, businesses and visitors throughout the Paint Out.

Please be considerate when choosing and setting up your position.

Keep pedestrian routes, entrances, doorways and access points clear and follow any instructions from the RWY team.

Please take particular care with paints and materials around the Yard's historic buildings, paving, landscaping and waterfront.

Nothing should be poured away or left behind.

Dirty painting water, solvents, oils and other artists' materials must be stored securely and taken home with you for appropriate disposal.

Please take all rubbish and used materials away with you or place ordinary waste in the appropriate bins.

WHAT HAPPENS ON THE DAY?

Registration

Artists should make their way to **the Green at Royal William Yard** to register before starting.

Please bring your blank canvas/surface and your painting kit with you.

The RWY team will provide any final information you need before you head to your chosen designated location.

11am – Brushes at the ready!

The RWY Paint Out officially begins.

Head to your chosen location, find your view and start creating.

11am–3pm – The Paint Out

You have four hours to create your piece.

Remember, your artwork must be started and completed during the event to qualify for judging.

3pm – Brushes down

The Paint Out finishes at 3pm.

Artists should then carefully transport their completed artwork to the designated judging location in the **Melville Building**.

Please plan in advance for how you will transport your artwork – particularly if you are working in oils or another medium that may still be wet.

4pm – Judging

Judging will take place at 4pm.

Prizes will be awarded and the **top five artworks** will be selected to go forward to the **RWY Artober Exhibition, 23 October–1 November**.

Further information about exhibiting the selected pieces will be provided to the successful artists.

WHAT IF IT RAINS?

This is plein-air painting in Plymouth – a little weather is all part of the experience!

RWY Paint Out will still take place if rain or showers are forecast, so please come prepared with suitable clothing and equipment.

However, if **heavy rain or high winds** are forecast and conditions mean the event cannot safely or reasonably take place, RWY Paint Out will be rescheduled to:

Saturday 10 October

If the reserve date is required, registered artists will be contacted with further information.

Please therefore make sure you are able to attend the reserve date when booking your place.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY PAINTING IS STILL WET?

If you're working in oils, acrylics or another medium that may not be completely dry by 3pm, think about transporting your finished artwork before you arrive.

A wet-panel carrier is ideal, but there are other ways of safely transporting wet work.

Whatever method you use, make sure the painted surface is protected without anything touching or rubbing against it.

Remember that you'll first need to transport your finished piece from your Paint Out location to the Melville Building for judging.

CAN I TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS?

We want your competition artwork to be created from your experience and observation of Royal William Yard on the day.

However, taking photographs of your chosen view can be useful as a reference – particularly when working with changing light, moving boats or people.

And, of course, we'd love to see photographs of your Paint Out experience too.

WILL PHOTOGRAPHY TAKE PLACE AT THE EVENT?

Photography and/or filming may take place during RWY Paint Out to capture the event and Artober at Royal William Yard.

Photographs will be used for marketing and promotional purposes and may appear on the Royal William Yard website and social media as well as other marketing materials. If you do not want to appear in any images captured as part of the event, please let the photographer know.

YOUR FINAL CHECKLIST

Before leaving home, ask yourself:

My artwork

- ☐ Blank canvas, board or paper – maximum **16 x 20 inches (approximately 40 x 50cm)**.
- ☐ Safe way of transporting the finished piece

My art kit

- ☐ Paints / pencils / chosen medium
- ☐ Brushes and/or drawing tools
- ☐ Palette / mixing surface
- ☐ Easel / pochade box if needed
- ☐ Stool or chair if needed
- ☐ Water / secure solvent container
- ☐ Cloths, rags or kitchen roll
- ☐ Sketchbook and pencil
- ☐ Tape / bulldog clips
- ☐ Bags or containers for used materials

For me

- ☐ Waterproof
- ☐ Warm layers
- ☐ Comfortable footwear
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Food/snacks
- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Ticket / booking details

And finally...

Don't worry about creating the "perfect" painting.

Look around. Find the view that catches your eye. Enjoy the atmosphere. Talk to other artists. Respond to what's in front of you and have fun creating something that could only have been made at Royal William Yard, on that day, in that moment.

Blank canvas. Four hours. One inspiring location.

Find your view.