

CAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION INFORMATION 2025

Contemporary Applied Arts is a registered charity (No. 235914) set up in 1948 to champion and promote applied artists, makers and crafts people in the UK. Our gallery is the premier exhibition and retail venue for the appreciation, education and purchase of applied arts.

Through its membership programme, CAA offers selected UK-based professionals the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work through an established central London venue, and become part of a network of highly respected and talented makers.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for CAA membership you must be a professional maker living and working in the UK (for tax purposes), and working in one of the following disciplines: ceramics, furniture, glass, jewellery, metal, paper, textiles, wood.

Applicants must be skilled in their field. CAA does not represent students or those that produce work on an amateur basis. Members of CAA must be actively producing work for exhibition and/or sale.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

All Members will:

- Be represented through the gallery space (for retail sale and/or in special exhibitions) as appropriate
- Be represented on the website
- Be represented through promotional material displayed within the venue
- Receive regular newsletters and exhibition leaflets from CAA
- Receive invitations to private views and other CAA events

All Members have the opportunity to:

- Show new bodies of work/profiles of work within the gallery
- Give and attend artists talks and other 'learning' events
- Submit proposals for exhibitions and/or curate shows

New Members have the opportunity to:

- Be featured in an annual exhibition showcase for New Members **1st November – 15th November 2025**. Accepted New Members must have work available for these dates.

On selection, all Members will receive a copy of the CAA Membership Policy, which works as a contract to outline what Members can expect from CAA as a membership organisation, and in turn, what CAA can expect from its Members.

FEE

Membership is **£130 per year**. Payment for membership must be made by direct debit through GoCardless, to be set up upon acceptance as a member.

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection of members is by a panel of professionals made up of senior CAA maker members. In some cases, the panel may recommend that the applicant re-applies at a later date and this will be clearly indicated in correspondence.

All applications are assessed on the criteria outlined below. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the first stage within 28 days of the deadline date.

The panel's decision is final. Contemporary Applied Arts does not give individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Selection criteria

Knowledge of material	The maker should demonstrate in-depth knowledge of, sensitivity to and appreciation of the material that they work with.
Skill in technique	The maker should demonstrate that they have fully mastered the techniques used, and be a specialist within their field.
Quality of work	The work must show integrity, be resolved and complete, and be executed to an exceptional standard. The finish of the pieces must prompt an interest into the craft techniques used.
Originality of work	The maker must demonstrate innovation, either through a ground-breaking method or using an existing method in a new way. The work must be truly individual and not derivative of another.
Strong personal voice/identity	The work must demonstrate creativity and a consistency in quality throughout all pieces of work, and be clearly identifiable as individual of the maker.
Knowledge of cultural context and techniques	The processes used and finished work must be well-researched, and the maker must demonstrate potential for development/ the ability to develop further within the field.
Suitability	The panel must feel that the work clearly fits within the remit of CAA, and can be effectively represented through the organisation's activities.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your application by email to reach CAA by **1st SEPTEMBER 2025**.

Before sending your application, you are strongly advised to visit the gallery and/or website to understand the level of work required for CAA. Please also ensure that you are eligible for membership (see Eligibility above).

You must include the following in your application:

1. Completed application form

Provide short descriptions, dimensions and artist's prices for the pieces you are submitting in images (see below). The artist's price is the trade or cost price (price before gallery mark-up).

2. Recent CV

Your CV should include the following headings (where applicable):

Personal details, Stockists, Publications/Articles/Press, Education/Qualifications, Exhibitions, Commissions/Public Collections, Awards, Employment

3. Artist's statement

Provide a description (300 words maximum) of your work, inspirations and motivations.

4. Technical notes

Provide a description (150 words maximum) of the processes and techniques used.

5. 8 digital images

Your images should be of high quality (ideally 300dpi), in jpeg or png format. Images may be emailed as file attachments. If your attachment size exceeds 5MB in total, please use a file transfer service such as Dropbox or Wetransfer.com. Always ensure the files are clearly labelled with your name and number each digital image that you send with the corresponding number on your application form. Do not send more images than those detailed on the form.

6. £25 administration fee

An administration fee of £25 is payable with each application and is non-refundable. If you are reapplying under the recommendation of CAA, you do not need to pay the administration fee again (enclose a copy of the letter). Please make your payment via the CAA website by debit or credit card. Any enquiries for this step should be directed to apply@caa.org.uk.

Please DO NOT send any additional information unless specifically requested from CAA.

Send all completed applications to: apply@caa.org.uk