

Photo Fringe

Exhibitor Information Pack 2026



© Murray Ballard, Collectives Hub, Phoenix Art Space Brighton, Photo Fringe 2024

"Photo Fringe has been hands-down the most wonderful exhibition experience I have ever had, and the only one where I felt part of a caring community. It is a wonderful opportunity that has such a positive impact on people and the photographic community as a whole." Christian Jago, exhibitor, 2022

"Developing a community of artists, a sense of belonging. Making photography accessible and breaking down snooty art barriers for the person on the street and a freedom to show what you want." - exhibitor 2026

"The festival has a grassroots feeling that is unlike many others, it is a very joyous place (even online). The visibility is great for emerging artists." - Samuel Fordham, exhibitor, 2020

Photo Fringe is an open festival and registered charity supporting photographers and lens-based artists of all levels to present self-curated exhibitions in accessible spaces.

Built on a grassroots DIY ethos, the festival is collectively funded by exhibitors so we can produce an inclusive, high-quality and ambitious event.

Our values are **collaborative and connected**, **open and inclusive**, and **DIY and experimental**. The 2026 edition runs from **2 to 31 October**, with launch events on **Friday, 2 October**, across Brighton and Hove, Portsmouth and Newhaven.

This year the festival will be produced by **Ricardo Reveron Blanco**, supported by an assistant, a Comms manager, volunteers and a voluntary Board of Trustees. Alongside self-curated exhibitions, we will present work by photographic collectives at **Phoenix Art Space, Brighton** and plan a festival hub at Marine Workshops in Newhaven.

Opportunities to take part will be published on our [Website](#) and [Instagram](#).

For Exhibitors

Photo Fringe welcomes practitioners from **all levels of experience**, from established artists to recent graduates and first-time exhibitors.

It is a professional setting where you can test new ideas, refine how you present your work, or explore a different direction in your practice.

We offer advice on presenting work, and our **networking events** in the run-up to the festival help connect you with fellow exhibitors and new opportunities.

These connections often lead to stronger visibility, shared opportunities and a wider audience for your work across the programme.

Venues & Spaces

The main body of the festival consists of self-curating exhibitions, so anyone can take part. It is your festival, and you shape the setting for your work.

You are responsible for finding and managing your own venue or space, though we will share opportunities we hear about on our [Instagram](#) and help connect artists who may be looking for larger shared venues.

Events & Programming

We encourage exhibitors to run events that help audiences connect more deeply with the work on display. Exhibitors can list their Photo Fringe events **free on the festival website**, helping them reach new audiences and extend the life of an exhibition.

- Meet-the-artist
- Workshops
- Photo walks
- Talks or panels

Marketing & Promotion

Within the limitations of our small team, we do everything we can to promote all the exhibitions in the festival.

In-venue exhibitions are allocated a venue number that helps form exhibition trails across Brighton & Hove and Sussex, supporting audience discovery. Our social media presence includes a **30K+ following**, and our content includes Instagram Live walkthroughs, artist conversations and Q&As featuring both in-venue and digital exhibitions where possible.

See examples of our Instagram Live artist chats and exhibition tours from Real Utopias in 2022 [here](#). You can also view a Photo Fringe talk about promoting your show [here](#).

We also provide design assets to help promote shows in print and online.

Registration & Contributions

Registration is scheduled to open in **July/August**.

We invite you to submit an expression of interest [here](#) as soon as possible. Photo Fringe is a **registered charity** run by a voluntary Board of Trustees, and this year we have been supported by the Chalk Cliff Trust while an application to Arts Council England is under review.

All exhibitor contributions have been subsidised and help support core festival activity, including design, website maintenance and marketing.

Exhibitor Contributions

Exhibition type	Contribution towards the festival
Solo exhibition (at a venue and online)	£125
Group exhibition (at a venue and online)	£150
Solo exhibition (online only)	£60
Group exhibition (online only)	£100
Event listing	FREE

Bursaries & Pay It Forward

We know that many practitioners are experiencing financial hardship, so a small number of **bursaries** are available for exhibitors who would benefit from taking part but cannot afford a contribution.

If you would like to apply, please email **info@photofringe.org** with the work you hope to exhibit and a brief explanation of how participation would support your practice.

If you are able to contribute more, our **Pay it Forward** approach gives you the option to donate toward an additional bursary for another artist, and every donation helps broaden access while protecting individual privacy.

Festival Theme: Feedback Loop

Each edition, we choose a theme for the festival. Exhibitors are free to present work responding to it, although it is by no means compulsory, and we encourage everyone to interpret the theme in ways that feel meaningful to their practice.

At a time when connection, collaboration and exchange are more important than ever, *Feedback Loop* invites us to think about the relationships that shape creative work. A feedback loop is a cycle of action and response: something happens, it creates a reaction, and that reaction influences what happens next. We see feedback loops everywhere; in conversations, communities, ecosystems, technologies and creative processes. They are how ideas develop, relationships evolve and new possibilities emerge.

This year's festival aims to create space for listening and collective learning. As the creative sector continues to face significant challenges, Photo Fringe exists to bring people together, support one another and demonstrate the value of working collectively. We want this year's festival to encourage an open exchange of perspectives, skills and ideas, making space for collaboration, discussion and connection.

Feedback Loop invites artists to consider photography as a medium shaped by interaction. How do images circulate? How do they change as they are seen, shared, interpreted and/or reworked? What becomes possible when creative work is made with others rather than alone? The theme welcomes projects involving shared authorship, collective research, publishing, performance, workshops, interventions and experimental image-making.

As Photo Fringe enters a new chapter, the theme also reflects a commitment to adapting and moving forward together. In a world where social, political and technological systems increasingly shape how we see and communicate, *Feedback Loop* asks what kinds of creative relationships we want to build, and what role photography can play in them.

Danny Wilson Memorial Awards

All Photo Fringe exhibitors are automatically entered into the **Danny Wilson Memorial Awards**.

The awards were established to commemorate **Danny Wilson**, the late Director of Brighton Photo Fringe, who died suddenly and unexpectedly in 2008.

We are grateful for the continued support of **Photoworks**, whose backing helps sustain the awards and the recognition they offer to artists. Prizes include a bursary, mentoring sessions and artist talks, creating valuable opportunities for development and visibility.

Read more about the awards [here](#).

Get In Touch

If you have any questions, please contact **info@photofringe.org**. If you would like support with your plans, please contact **ricardo@photofringe.org**.

We look forward to welcoming you to Photo Fringe and to seeing the work you share with our audiences.