

Exhibition Opportunity

PORTSMOUTH OPEN

Art Space, Portsmouth

Deadline for entries: 8 September 2026



Image credit: Art Space Portsmouth, Karl Bailey

Photo Fringe invites lens-based artists to apply for a new curated group exhibition at Art Space, Portsmouth, as part of the Photo Fringe 2026 festival.

The exhibition will explore archives as feedback loops — considering how photographs, documents, objects, memories and stories are continually revisited, reinterpreted and reshaped over time.

We are looking for artists whose practices engage with personal, family, community, institutional, cultural or found archives, and who explore how archival material can generate new meanings through acts of remembering, revisiting, reworking and reimagining.

What happens when we return to an archive? How does our relationship to an image or document change over time? What is remembered, forgotten, repeated or transformed?

Artists may work directly with existing archives within their own practice, including personal collections, family photographs, found images, community archives, historical records or institutional collections. We are also interested in practices that question what constitutes an archive and how archives are created, preserved and circulated.

Feedback Loop

Feedback Loop explores the ways images, people, places and ideas continuously shape one another. Rather than seeing photography as a static record, the theme invites artists to consider processes of exchange, repetition, influence and transformation.

For this exhibition, we are particularly interested in the **archive as a feedback loop**.

Archives are not neutral or static repositories. They are shaped by the decisions of those who create, collect, preserve and access them. Each time an archive is revisited, its contents can acquire new meanings through changing personal, social and political contexts.

A photograph might be made to remember something, archived for future generations, rediscovered years later and transformed into something new. A family album can become a site of research. A historical document can be reinterpreted through a contemporary perspective. A personal archive can reveal stories that were previously overlooked or deliberately forgotten.

We invite artists to consider these processes of return, repetition, reinterpretation and transformation within their own practices.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- This opportunity is open to photographers and lens-based artists working in any medium, including installation, moving image, sound and expanded photographic practice.
- Solo artists and artist collectives are welcome to apply.
- The exhibition will be curated around the relationship between **archives and feedback loops**.
- Artists should demonstrate an existing engagement with an archive, or propose work that meaningfully explores archival material through their practice.
- Archives may be personal, family, community, institutional, cultural, historical, digital or found.
- We welcome artists who work with archives in unconventional ways, including rephotography, appropriation, collage, installation, moving image, sound, text and other forms of expanded photographic practice.
- Existing or new work may be submitted, provided there is a clear relationship to the exhibition's curatorial premise.
- Artists are encouraged to consider how their work changes, disrupts, questions or reinterprets the archive from which it emerges.
- Selected works will be presented as part of a collective exhibition at **Art Space, Portsmouth**.
- Works can be wall hung and/or freestanding, subject to the requirements and available space at the venue. Artists are expected to print/provide their own work and with suitable hanging options
- Artists will be expected to install and de-install their work with support from the Photo Fringe team.
- Artists will be invited to contribute to the timetable of invigilation (Friday PV, Saturday and Sunday 10-4pm)
- Artists are encouraged to attend the Photo Fringe 2026 festival programme.
- Travel, transport and accommodation costs cannot be reimbursed unless otherwise agreed.
- There are no submission fees and this opportunity is free to enter.
- Photo Fringe will take **35% commission** on any sales of works to help cover staffing costs.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email submissions to: **ricardo@photofringe.org** and mark your subject line:

Portsmouth Open 2026 Submission

Include:

- Up to **300 words**, or alternatively a video application in BSL or English or an audio application of no longer than 3 minutes, explaining how your work engages with archives and the idea of the archive as a feedback loop.
- Up to a maximum of **12 images** in JPEG format (72 dpi, each image no larger than 3MB). For film or video works, please send a screener link.
- A website or Instagram link.

Applicants may use AI tools sparingly for administrative or supportive tasks, such as proofreading or developing ideas, but applications should primarily reflect the applicant's own voice, ideas and creative practice. We do not accept photographs or artworks generated by AI.

If you require support with your application, please contact Ricardo Reverón Blanco:
ricardo@photofringe.org

TIMELINE

Deadline for submissions: 8 September 2026

Shortlisted artists notified: 15 September 2026

Installation: 19–23rd October

Photo Fringe 2026 Festival: 2 – 31 October 2026

Exhibition dates: 24–25th October 2026

PV: 23rd October 2026

De-install: 26 October

SELECTION

Applications will be assessed by **Producer at Photo Fringe, Ricardo Reverón Blanco**

Selections will consider:

- The strength and quality of the work.
- The artist's engagement with archival material.
- The relevance of the work to the exhibition's curatorial premise of **archives as feedback loops**.
- How effectively the work explores ideas of memory, repetition, reinterpretation, transformation or transmission.
- The potential for the work to contribute to a diverse and engaging group exhibition.
- The feasibility of the work within the available exhibition space.

Jury Award

The jury will select one artist from the exhibiting cohort to receive a **mentorship with Ricardo Reverón Blanco**, alongside an in-depth written interview conducted by Ricardo.

The interview will be published on the Photo Fringe website, offering the selected artist a platform to share their practice with a wider audience.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All artists and collectives exhibiting will need to sign an agreement abiding by the Terms and Conditions of both Photo Fringe and the host venue. These will be issued on selection.

Collectives are advised to take out their own contents and public liability insurance and will need to follow health and safety directives.

Please note that the exhibition is family friendly and we ask artists to bear this in mind when submitting works.