

OVERSEAS CHINESE ARTISTS ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

BRITAIN INTERNATIONAL CREATIVE COMPETITION

FORMAL NOTICE OF COMPETITION

Reference: BICC/2026/01

Date: 25 May 2026

To: Prospective entrants, educational institutions and partner organisations

Subject: 2026 Sixth Britain International Creative Competition

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Organising Committee hereby gives notice of the principal arrangements for the 2026 Sixth Britain International Creative Competition (BICC). This notice shall be read together with any subsequent written instruction issued by the Organising Committee. Where a later instruction differs from this notice, the later instruction shall apply.

1. Purpose and organisers

The Britain International Creative Competition (BICC) is an international art and design competition intended to support creative practice and encourage young creators in the United Kingdom and China. It provides a cross-border platform for artists, designers and students in art-related disciplines.

The competition is jointly presented by the Overseas Chinese Artists Association in the United Kingdom, the Turner Contemporary Museum in the United Kingdom and the China Overseas Friendship Association. The published competition information states that BICC is recognised by the Bureau of European Design Associations (BEDA).

2. Eligibility and entries

The competition is open to creators working in design, art and fine art, with particular encouragement for emerging creators and students in art-related disciplines in the United Kingdom and China.

Each entry may have up to four authors. There is no stated limit on the number of supervising teachers. All authors and contributors should be identified accurately at submission.

3. Competition categories

3.1 Themed category

Entrants may select one of the following themes. A creative statement of no more than 300 Chinese characters or equivalent concise English text must accompany a themed entry.

Theme 1 — Dopamine Design

Entries should explore how colour, rhythm, material and interaction can be used to design a considered experience of pleasure. Relevant directions include visual design, brand systems, fatigue-reducing interfaces, products and collectible design, fashion and accessories, immersive spaces, illustration, painting, ceramics and craft.

Theme 2 — Identity and Belonging

Entries should examine identity in a world shaped by algorithms, screens and data. The brief welcomes perspectives on digital identity, diasporic experience, subcultures, gender, language and other broadly human questions. Relevant directions include identity systems, typography, clothing and accessories, portraiture, installations, sculpture, AI-assisted creation, and concepts of connection and loneliness. A concise creative statement is required.

3.2 Open category

The Open category has no prescribed theme or formal restriction. Entries may take the form of concept design, art and technology, new materials, AI-generated art, visual or graphic design, media design, interaction and web design, industrial design, fashion, spatial design, painting, craft, ceramics, illustration, sculpture or other work with artistic value and substantive meaning.

4. Competition timetable

Stage	Submission period	Results / note
Season 1	25 May – 5 August 2026	Results announced 15 August 2026
Season 2	6 August – 25 October 2026	Results announced 18 November 2026
Grand Final	—	Results announced 24 December 2026; Gold Award works from both seasons are reviewed again

The two seasons are separate submission and judging rounds. Specific arrangements remain subject to the official announcement of the Organising Committee.

5. Awards

Award	Amount	Number / basis
Grand Prize	£2,000	Five awards
Final Prize	£1,500	Five awards
Jury Prize	£1,000	Five awards
Gold, Silver, Bronze and Merit Awards	—	Themed and Open categories assessed separately

Award proportions for the final round are stated as follows:

Award level	Themed category	Open category
Gold	2%	1%
Silver	8%	5%
Bronze	10%	15%
Merit	15%	15%

An electronic certificate is issued for every BICC award. Certificate numbers may be verified through the official competition administration channel.

6. Judging

The judging panel comprises 37 standing judges from the United Kingdom and China. Judging is conducted in two stages: (i) first-round review by three judges, with the average score determining progression; and (ii) second-round review by five judges, determining the applicable award.

Judges consider, as applicable, systemic thinking, originality of concept, emotional effectiveness, conceptual depth, originality of viewpoint, and the balance between critical insight and empathy.

7. Fees and submission

Themed category: no registration fee or judging fee is charged.

Open category: RMB 40 per work. For entries submitted through the designated competition platform which do not receive an award, RMB 35 per work is stated to be refunded.

Entries shall be submitted through the channels designated by the Organising Committee. Entrants should retain their submission records and ensure that registration details are accurate.

8. Enquiries

Contact	Details
Email	bicc@ocaa.uk
Telephone	0044 7894 655 265
Organiser	Overseas Chinese Artists Association in the United Kingdom

9. General note

This notice constitutes the Organising Committee's formal statement of the arrangements set out above. Any amendment, clarification or operational instruction shall be issued by the Organising Committee in writing.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of the BICC Organising Committee
Overseas Chinese Artists Association in the United Kingdom
25 May 2026
End of notice

