

# Westgate Galleria's Guest Exhibitor Opportunities

We are an independent art gallery and shop space on the high street in Westgate-on-Sea, which is a thriving seaside town in Thanet in East Kent. Established in 2019, we have a wall dedicated to short term (month-long) shows put on by guest artists. You can exhibit on our guest wall individually, with collaborators, or share the space with a group.

Your exhibition takes place alongside permanent displays of contemporary art and artisan-crafted works by the gallery's resident group of local artists and makers, some of whom regularly work there and will welcome you spending time in the gallery with them during your show if you would like to do that.

We welcome all guest hire enquiries, whether you are an established artist looking for fresh exhibition opportunities, are looking to gain more experience of exhibiting your art, or you are new to showing your work publicly. Perhaps you are looking to test the local waters with a view to exhibiting your work permanently with us, or with one of the many other fabulous independent art galleries in this part of Kent.

We take bookings from local artists and those further afield, working in all genres. The vibe in our gallery and shared makers shop space is relaxed, welcoming and inclusive. We are family and dog-friendly, and wheelchair-accessible. Our hire rates are highly competitive year-round, with no hidden-costs, reflecting our commitment to supporting creatives with affordable, high quality, exhibiting opportunities in Thanet. In these challenging times for the arts, exhibitions in our gallery offer exposure to receptive and appreciative audiences of locals and visitors as well as sales opportunities. A fun and supportive experience is guaranteed here in Thanet's busiest high street, truly a gem in East Kent.

## Monthly Hire Fees, for 2025 (held for 2026)

January, February, March	£125
April, May	£175
June, July, August	£200
September, October	£175
November, December	£200

Deposit: A non-refundable 25% deposit holds your booking, with the balance of the booking fee payable no later than two weeks prior to your installation date. We can take these payments by bank transfer and cash or card at the gallery, or by phone at an arranged time.

Our commission on sales of your artwork during your exhibition is 20%.

## What's included

- A white-painted and well-lit wall space in our front galleria room, to hang your work on. It measures 2.25m (w) x 2.5m (h).
- Use of our professional hanging system. Assistance with installations and takedowns is available if needed.
- Space for a floor-standing browser to display prints in. We can supply this or you can bring your own in. Also space in the group's shared greetings card spinners. We have plinths and surfaces available to use at no extra cost too.
- Space to display your Artist's Statement and business cards.
- Help to promote your exhibition by listing it on our website and posting about it on our social media channels.
- Point of sale packaging (except for specialist materials).
- Processing of payments for sales by bank transfer (minus our commission). We take card, contactless and cash payments.
- Advertised (or non-advertised if you prefer) meet-the-artist session(s) with our visitors, in the gallery, supported on the day by the artist-on-duty.
- Support for a preview/private view event if you would like to invite your friends, family and client-base to join you for a "do" during your show, or to launch it.

## Our hanging system

We use the STAS (Zipper) hanging system. This uses nylon cords (in various lengths) with adjustable slider hooks to hang your artworks on. Using D-rings on the back of your work will help achieve a professional layout for your exhibition. Use them in pairs on the sides of the backs of your framed pieces, either on their own or with cord or wire securely and loosely strung between them. Place them so that your work will hang flat against the wall and not tip forward. Usually this means no higher than 1/3 of the way down but it will also depend on the weight of the frame too. We have ample supplies of hooks and cords for your exhibition. We do not charge extra for their use, but we do ask you to not cut them, or remove them from the gallery, as they are expensive to replace.

If you need guidance on how to use our hanging system or assistance with it on installation day, we will happily arrange help, let us know in advance if possible.

## Planning your exhibition

We encourage you to bring a pre-planned hanging scheme with you on installation day. We are happy to look at this in advance if that's helpful. As a general rule allow for plenty of "white space" around each artwork in your hanging scheme. Googling "gallery wall layouts" and checking out Pinterest will help if inspiration is needed.

Once your work is hung, you do not have to be present in the gallery during your show unless you want to be. However, we do warmly welcome you to visit for a day or two, or more, and to drop in whenever you want during opening hours. It's a great way to engage face-to-face with your show's visitors and to meet other artists. We have WiFi, we can make space for an easel if you want to work on site, and there is a wide choice of eateries, other galleries, shops - and beaches - nearby to make your visit a great day out.

We ask you to leave briefing notes and an artist's statement with us, to help each day's artist-on-duty introduce your work to the gallery's visitors, and handle any sales enquiries. Please also leave us a price list/priced inventory, and your instructions on handling requests we may get from customers about discounting.

We have space for holding stock to fill any gaps from sales during your stay. Red dots are used to identify sold works for collection or shipping after the exhibition ends. We can arrange shipping of required.

## Promoting your exhibition

We ask you to provide a title, a short description, and a promotional image, for your exhibition well in advance (at least four months before your opening day). We like to promote your exhibition well before it opens, and during it, using our website and social media platforms. If given the information with enough notice we aim to also promote it in regional arts and events listings websites and publications. Note that these publications often work with very long lead in times, eg six-nine months. We usually list all guest exhibitions on local and regional Tourist Office websites too. We like to also put a poster in the gallery window during your show. Email it to us if you have one, otherwise we will create one. It is important that you spread the word about your exhibition amongst your own networks, and your friends and family. Personally promoting your show regularly in the months and weeks running up to it will help to maximise attendance by people who are already interested in seeing your work, and following you online; and encourage a new audience too. We will share your social media posts if you tag the Galleria so that we see them. Do share what we post about your exhibition too. If you hold a contact list for your clients let them know about your stay with us.

The image you provide when you make your booking will be used on our website (and others), on social media, in the what's on section of the Isle of Thanet News (online newspaper), and in a printed poster. Something hi-res and suitable for use in square, landscape and portrait formats is best please

## Our location, contact details and opening times

Westgate Galleria & Studio  
29 Station Road,  
Westgate-on-Sea,  
Kent, CT88RB  
@westgategalleria  
www.westgategalleria.co.uk  
westgategalleria@gmail.com  
07305 473010

Open six days a week, year-round  
Monday to Saturday  
10am to 5pm

Our guest wall exhibition slots are generally scheduled to include four weekends open to the public. This may mean your show starts in one month and finishes in the next.

Install and takedown days are included in your booking and take place on Thursdays (or on other days by arrangement). We advertise your exhibition as open to the public from the day after your installation until the day before it's taken down.

## To book

Contact our lead Sarah Gibbon (contact details above) providing links to images representative of the work you would like to exhibit, and to check which slots are currently available. Sarah can call you to discuss arrangements, or you can meet with her at the Galleria. Guest exhibition bookings are curated and are not scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis as we like to make sure that a variety of styles and genres are showcased through the year. All enquiries are given full consideration in the order they are received however, and we do keep a waiting list in case of cancellations.

*Westgate*  
GALLERIA & STUDIO

Details updated January 2026