

THE  
NATIONAL  
GALLERY

THE NATIONAL GALLERY  
MASTERPIECE TOUR

2025-2027



## OPEN CALL: APPLY FOR THE NATIONAL GALLERY MASTERPIECE TOUR 2025-2027

The National Gallery's collection belongs to the public and we are committed to sharing it, enabling access and engaging with diverse audiences across the UK.

The National Gallery Masterpiece Tour 2025-27 offers four UK museums, galleries and art centres the opportunity to partner with the National Gallery for three years and display three major works from the collection. Each year one masterpiece will be shown at four partners across the UK. Past paintings which have toured the UK as part of Masterpiece include Manet's *The Execution of Maximilian* (1867-8), Holbein's *A Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling* (1526-8), Rembrandt's *Self Portrait at the Age of 63* (1669) and Degas' *Hélène Rouart in her Father's Study* (1886).

We are now seeking four partners for the period 2025-2027, beginning with the tour of Claude Monet's *The Petit Bras of the Seine at Argenteuil*, 1872 and two other paintings.

### THE OPPORTUNITY

The four successful partners will work together with the National Gallery for three years, collaborating to develop the Masterpiece tour and display a different National Gallery painting each year. Working in partnership over three years will enable us all to learn together, connect with existing and new audiences, gather insight and evaluation, share good practice and develop a new network.

As part of this edition of the National Gallery Masterpiece Tour, partners will engage a local community organisation to support the exhibition or public programme related to the Masterpiece painting each year. The National Gallery will provide a financial contribution to each partner, specifically for engaging and working with their chosen community partner(s).

### ELIGIBILITY

Application is open to all UK museums, galleries and art centres outside of London, who meet the required [standard conditions of loan](#), security and environmental conditions. Your organisation must also have the capacity to work with a local community partner organisation to support the exhibition or public programme related to the Masterpiece painting each year.

We are particularly interested in working with partners who have not previously nor recently borrowed from the National Gallery.

### THE NATIONAL GALLERY WILL ARRANGE AND PAY FOR:

- Preparation of the masterpiece for touring including glazing
- Partner meetings: At the start of the project our Partners will be invited to a kick-off meeting at the National Gallery, providing an opportunity to see the paintings in person, meet National Gallery colleagues and one another, and discuss the project. Costs will be covered for two colleagues from each partner venue to attend. Further meetings will take place at partner venues and online to share exhibition plans over the three years.
- Access to annual UK Partner Day
- Text for interpretation to introduce the tour and foundation of the National Gallery, plus text about the artist and painting.
- A digital image of the masterpiece (both high and low res) for non-commercial use.
- An audio description of the work.
- A press release, plus wider Communications support.
- Packing, crating and transport of the masterpieces (all arrangements made by the National Gallery).
- Installation and deinstallation support (crate storage if required).
- A National Gallery courier to oversee installations and deinstallations.
- Photography of the Exhibition/Display
- A public talk by a member of the Curatorial team for each painting.
- Evaluation materials (and support if required).
- Access to National Gallery Training and Workshops.

### OPTIONAL CONTENT

In addition, the following are available to partners should they wish:

- An online talk ahead of the display to introduce the project to staff and volunteers.
- Existing digital content (10 minute talks, videos and technical information) where available.
- Learning programme support.
- Opportunity to purchase related merchandise from National Gallery Global.

### PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- On-site local costs of staging the display (e.g. preparation of the display space, producing and display of text, preparation, and display of any other works etc.).
- Insurance of painting or covering the minimum liability under the Government Indemnity Scheme arrangements, and all other local costs. Facilities must comply with the [National Gallery standard conditions of loan](#).
- Managing and working with local Community Partner.
- Opening Event for exhibitions/displays.

### FUNDING

In addition to the costs listed above, the National Gallery will additionally provide a £10,000 contribution for each partner per year which is to be used in the following way:

- Portion A: £5k to support the display of the painting. This could include, but is not limited to, preparation of display space, exhibition design, marketing, upgrading security infrastructure etc.
- Portion B: £5k for engaging and working with a community partner.



NG6395, Claude Monet 1840- 1926, *The Petit Bras of the Seine at Argenteuil*, 1872  
Oil on canvas, Framed dimensions 74 × 93 × 10.8 cm

Two men stand on the quiet banks of the Seine near the small town of Argenteuil, 12km north of Paris. Monet moved to Argenteuil after returning from his exile in London in 1871 and remained in the town until moving to Vétheuil in 1878. The town was also a popular destination with his fellow Impressionists, such as Sisley and Pissarro. Many Parisians, on the other hand, visited the Argenteuil area for leisurely pursuits of swimming, sailing and pleasure boating. This image does not show a typical Impressionist image of busy modern life, but instead reminds of the tranquil Barbizon landscapes by Daubigny and Corot. The light touches of paint in the foliage of the trees recall Corot's feathery technique. The shorter brushstrokes and thicker application of paint in the foreground and the shimmering of the water are more typical of the impressionist works Monet would exhibit 2 years later at the First Impressionist Exhibition.

Themes relating to this masterpiece that could be explored include:

- Impressionism
- Landscape Painting
- Retreat and Escape
- Suburban Life
- The Dawn of Industrialisation

## THE APPLICATION

If you are interested in this three-year partnership with the National Gallery and three partners, please submit a proposal of up to 1,600 words (additional supporting documents may also be included) answering the following:

1. Please summarise why your organisation is applying for the Masterpiece Tour (150 words)
2. Explain the importance and potential impact participation in the Masterpiece Tour would have on your collection, organisation, programme and audiences (500 words)
3. Based on your staff and scale of institution, please outline your experience of mounting temporary exhibitions (150 words)

4. Please share your initial display ideas and interpretive approach for the first painting. (300 words)

This may include:

- whether the painting would hang in an exhibition room or within collection galleries.
- If you intend to feature any other artworks alongside.
- If there is relevance of to your institution and / or geographical location
- Ideas for using the first £5,000 (Portion A) of the funding contribution

5. Describe your initial ideas for a local community organisation you would like to work with and the kind of project you might like to deliver together in partnership (300 words)

- Please include details of how you will use the £5,000 contribution intended for this.
- Outline any additional promotional, learning and outreach activities you intend to programme. We are particularly interested in how you might use the Masterpiece Tour to engage a broader, more diverse, or less engaged, audience.

6. Working in partnership over three years will enable us all to learn together, connect with existing and new audiences, share good practice and develop a new network. What expertise and knowledge can your organisation bring that will strengthen the Masterpiece 2025-2027 network? (200 words)

We also require facility, security and environmental information for your proposed exhibition space.

Please send us the following information:

- [Completed UKRG Standard Facilities Report](#)
- [Completed UKRG Security Supplement](#)
- [Completed National Gallery Wall and Alarm Supplement](#)
- Relative humidity and temperature readings of the exhibition space for a two-month period. The readings must be continuous over a period when the climate control was functioning.
- An indication of preferred display dates – please note display periods should be between eight weeks to three months in duration from September 2025 onwards.

Should you have any concerns regarding the facility, security and environmental specifications please [get in touch](#) ahead of your application to discuss this with us. We can also assist with any other queries in advance of submitting your application.

## DEADLINES

Please submit all applications by 12noon on **Friday 27 September** to The National Touring Exhibitions Team at [national.touring@nationalgallery.org.uk](mailto:national.touring@nationalgallery.org.uk)

The National Gallery will select partners based upon their submitted written application and supplied Facilities Report and Security Supplement.

Shortlisted applicants will need to facilitate a site visit from the National Gallery Touring Team and a later online discussion of their application with the National Gallery's Director of Public Engagement, Jacob Rothschild Head of the Curatorial Department, Head of Learning and Programmes and Head of National Touring Exhibitions.

**Successful partners will be notified by Friday 15 November 2024.**

## PROJECT TIMELINE

November 2024	Partners confirmed
January 2025	Masterpiece Partner Day hosted at the National Gallery, London
February 2025	Press announcement
Spring/Summer 2025	Development of ideas and exhibition proposals
Autumn 2025	First exhibition opens at first venue
Autumn 2026	Opening of Exhibition with second painting
Autumn 2027	Opening of Exhibition with third painting
Summer 2028	Masterpiece Tour concludes at final partner venue



Proud to support the National Gallery Masterpiece Tour 2025-2027