



Botanical & Floral Art in Bloom Exhibition | Judging Process

Bord Bia Bloom 2026

Review of Submissions and Initial Assessment

The initial review of submission is online; the assessment panel (judges) score the submissions, resulting in the selection of the work that will be exhibited in the final exhibition.

The panel members each examine the entries and then they discuss the submissions together as a panel via an online meeting. It is worth noting that occasionally images are not clear enough for the panel to make a good judgement and therefore cannot be accepted.

The panel aim to include as many artists as possible and to welcome the work of new artists yearly, to ensure variety in the exhibition from year to year. They also want to choose a wide variety of plants for the exhibition. While they are tasked with choosing 40 artworks, they often overreach this number to include all the artworks that they feel will make a varied, lively and welcoming exhibition.

Judging the Exhibition

The second part of the judging process is when the exhibition is ready, the day before the opening day. The panel examine every piece and discuss them, noting down their comments. They always offer positive comments first and only then make negative remarks if any. When it comes to judging the exhibition for awards, the panel work from a set of guidelines, so that they can be sure that they have thoroughly assessed each piece of work (the guidelines listed below). They award the works that receive the highest points, and they hope that this will inspire artists to aspire to and maintain high standards. As set out in the Criteria for Submission, judging falls into two categories Floral and Botanical. The judging guidelines for both vary in some regards.

The panel judge using a points system, where they each award a number out of ten to each piece and then they collate the numbers. Not all artworks will have all components, nor will they fit into neat categories, so the lists are a guide rather than a 'tick box' exercise.

The judging session takes the day, and the panel strive to be thorough, fair and robust in their decisions. They aim to judge the work to the highest of standards. To receive an award is exceptional.

Judging Panel for 2026

Alex Caccamo, Deborah Lambkin and Brendan Saywers



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Floral judging guidelines:

- Identification, is the subject generally identifiable?
- Subject, is the subject the primary focus of the artwork? Where birds, invertebrates etc. are included, they should be relevant and not distract from the plant.
- Title, does the image fulfil the theme?

- Composition, is the image thoughtfully composed?
- Medium, is the chosen medium suitable and used adeptly, confidently and effectively?
- Does the technique skilfully convey colour, texture, contrast, depth and movement etc.?
- Presentation, is the work cleanly presented and adequately framed?

- Overall Impression, Is the artwork weak or strong? better from close-up or distance?
- Aesthetics, does this image show beauty, is it enjoyable, does it bring out the beauty of the subject?
- Does the image convey or evoke a relevant theme (garden, pond, natural environment etc.) or atmosphere?
- Scale of endeavour, has this artwork taken time and effort?

Botanical Art judging guidelines:

- Identification, is the plant identifiable?
- Subject, is the subject the primary focus of the artwork? Where birds, invertebrates etc. are included, they should be relevant and not distract from the plant.
- Information, does the artwork strive to offer more information, flowers from different perspectives, dissections, habit, habitat or life cycle stages?
- Title, Latin or cultivar name, is it included on the label?
- Scale, if artwork is not life-size, does the artwork include a neat indication of scale?

- Drawing, is the structure of the plant clear, plant parts shaped accurately and does perspective look natural?
- Composition, are the elements balanced, suitable spaced and simple to 'read'?
- Is the chosen medium suitable and used adeptly, confidently and effectively?
- Does the technique adequately indicate the details, texture, depth of colour and tonal contrast of the subject?
- Presentation, is the work cleanly presented and adequately framed?

- Overall Impression, or first impression, Is the artwork weak or strong? better from close-up or distance?
- Aesthetically pleasing, does this image show beauty, is it enjoyable, interesting or does it bring out the beauty of the subject?
- Scale of endeavour, has this artwork taken time and effort?