Background
The Wolverhampton School of Art was established in 1851 at a time when the emerging tastes and aspirations of the public fuelled a desire for beautiful home-grown products.

The year’s Great Exhibition highlighted an urgent need for innovation in art and design to serve the needs of industry. In Wolverhampton, it was recognised that improvements were essential to international success. This led to local exhibitions of arts and crafts at the Wolverhampton Mechanics Institutes, which together with the School of Art became the foundation of the University of Wolverhampton.

From humble beginnings, the School has grown to be recognised as an innovative provider of art education with distinguished alumni working worldwide, challenging convention and creating pieces worthy of admiration, celebration and respect.

There is now a desire to reaffirm the School’s heritage and pedigree.

Competition brief
To celebrate the re-establishment of Wolverhampton School of Art as an art school of the future, we are inviting our students to design and create a celebratory artwork that captures the heart and soul of our School.

Winning entry/prizes
The winning artwork will be unveiled at the launch of the Wolverhampton School of Art on Friday 5 June 2015. It will be the first item in an annual collection of artwork that will grow to recognise the diversity, talent and achievement of the School and most of all, its students and alumni. We want you to be the next generation of alumni “creating pieces worthy of admiration, celebration and respect”.

Prize winners will receive:
1st prize £1,250
2nd prize £500
3rd prize £250

Deadlines
Expressions of interest: Friday 17 April 2015
If you are interested in taking part in the competition, email your expression of interest by Friday 17 April 2015 to: arts@wlv.ac.uk including your full name, course, student number, email and mobile number.

Judging: Tuesday 26 May 2015
All artworks must be completed and presented in the exhibition space provided by 10am on Tuesday 26 May 2015. You will be responsible for setting up your artwork ready for judging.

There will be someone available to advise and assist from 9am. (The venue for the exhibition will be forwarded to you once you have committed to take part in the competition).

Judging will begin at 11am. Three finalists will be selected to go forward to the final judging event on Friday 5 June.

Winners announced: Friday 5 June 2015
Final judging and announcement of 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize-winners at the prestigious Wolverhampton School of Art launch event.
We want you to consider:

**Our past**

How will your artwork recognise the history of the School of Art?

- Read about the roots of the original Government School of Practical Art, Wolverhampton.
- Consider the connection to the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the need for a national art and design identity born out of education. Research the roles of Henry Cole and George Wallis and their support for the Art School and their patronage of the arts.
- Consider the connection to the Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Museum.
- What were the industries in Wolverhampton at that time that the School of Art supported?
- Who attended the School in the 1800s? What would your fellow students have looked like then?
- What did creative activity in the arts involve at that time?

**Our present**

Where are we now?

We are presently housed in a historic building that was specifically designed as an art school. The first degree show held in this building was on 12 June 1969 with the first full academic year starting in September 1969. The building was officially opened on 23 October 1970 by Sir Charles Wheeler.

- Consider the architecture of the present building and its relevance as an example of modernist brutalist architecture.
- How did the key subjects at the time (fine art, graphic design, ceramics, dress design, 3D design, interior and industrial design) look then, how do they look now?
- Who were our alumni? Famous or otherwise. How could you recognise them in your artwork?
- Explore the More than Seven Storeys website. Thanks to the work of your tutor Don Adamson and his team, the history of the building and all that has happened here is recorded to assist your research.

**Our future**

You are our future. What does your art school mean to you?

You could consider:

- The building / architecture
- People: staff, students, alumni
- Freedom and expression
- Education and opportunity
- Resources and facilities
- Cultural richness
- Community and belonging
- Knowledge and inspiration
- International relations

- Try to express the importance and value of art and design to the economy.
- How can art and design contribute to society and culture?
- What will art schools of the future look like and what will they provide?
- How can the important heritage of Wolverhampton Art School manifest itself in something new and future-facing?

**What will you produce?**

Once you have done your research and considered some or all of the above we are asking you to design and create an artwork that celebrates Wolverhampton School of Art.

The work you produce can be: 2D (painting, illustration, photography, print, collage, etc); 3D (sculpture, glass, ceramics, jewellery, textiles, wearable art, models and products, etc); or technology based (a film, video, animation, 3D printed image, etc).

Consider the course you are studying and how you can use your skills to design the best response to this brief that you can imagine.