

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

ART INFORMATION GUIDE

Department L

EXHIBIT LOCATION: HOSKINS BUILDING

For mail-in instructions, please review the Competitive Exhibits General Information Document (click here to view)



Superintendent:

Raven Amos

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Art Exhibits Preparation Workshop:

- Date TBD

Learn how to prepare your artwork to hang in the Alaska State Fair Art Exhibit. This is geared for new entrants to learn how to correctly attach wire hanging kits to their artwork, framing and size requirements. We will **NOT** be accepting entries during this workshop.

Exhibit Entry:

NOTE: We will no longer offer hanging hardware kits during entry days!

- Friday, August 7, 11 am – 7 pm
- Saturday, August 8, 11 am – 7 pm

Exhibit Pick-up:

- Wednesday, September 9, 1 pm – 6 pm
- Saturday, September 12, 1 pm – 6 pm

Attention Artists: Check out the Label Competition in the Craft Beverage Department, alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibit/craft-beverages/, Division 8 Craft Beverage Label Competition.

Entrants may submit up to 3 artworks – may enter a Division more than once, however enter only one piece of artwork per Class under each Division.

SUBCATEGORIES:

- A: Junior, ages 5 through 8
- B: Junior, ages 9 through 12
- C: Junior, ages 13 through 17
- O: Open
- P: Professional (sells \$500+ of artwork/prints/merch per year or instructs Art
 - Art entries from children under 5 years must be entered in Creative Arts & Crafts Department in the Irwin Exhibits Building - see Division 11, Class 11.
 - If the sub-category is left blank, entry will be classified as “OPEN”.

DIVISION 01: LANDSCAPES / SCENERY

Classes:

- 01 Acrylic
 - 02 Charcoal
 - 03 Colored Pencil
 - 04 Ink / Marker / Pen and Ink
 - 05 Mixed Media (created using 2 or more mediums)
 - 06 Oil
 - 07 Pastel (soft, hard, pan, Oil Pastel)
 - 08 Pencil / Graphite
 - 09 Watercolor / Gouache
 - 10 Digital (No photos or "AI"/text-to-image)
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DIVISION 02: WILDLIFE / ANIMALS

Classes:

- 01 Acrylic
 - 02 Charcoal
 - 03 Colored Pencil
 - 04 Ink / Marker / Pen and Ink
 - 05 Mixed Media (created using 2 or more mediums)
 - 06 Oil
 - 07 Pastel (soft, hard, pan, Oil Pastel)
 - 08 Pencil / Graphite
 - 09 Watercolor / Gouache
 - 10 Digital (No photos or "AI"/text-to-image)
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DIVISION 03: PORTRAITS / FIGURES

Classes:

- 01 Acrylic
 - 02 Charcoal
 - 03 Colored Pencil
 - 04 Ink / Marker / Pen and Ink
 - 05 Mixed Media (created using 2 or more mediums)
 - 06 Oil
 - 07 Pastel (soft, hard, pan, Oil Pastel)
 - 08 Pencil / Graphite
 - 09 Watercolor / Gouache
 - 10 Digital (No photos or "AI"/text-to-image)
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DIVISION 04: STILL LIFE (not created in a classroom setting)

Classes:

- 01 Acrylic
 - 02 Charcoal
 - 03 Colored Pencil
 - 04 Ink / Marker / Pen and Ink
 - 05 Mixed Media (created using 2 or more mediums)
 - 06 Oil
 - 07 Pastel (soft, hard, pan, Oil Pastel)
 - 08 Pencil / Graphite
 - 09 Watercolor / Gouache
 - 10 Digital (No photos or “AI”/text-to-image)
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DIVISION 05: CARTOON / COMIC / ANIME STYLE

Classes:

- 01 Acrylic
 - 02 Pencil/Graphite
 - 03 Colored Pencil
 - 04 Ink / Marker / Pen and Ink
 - 05 Mixed Media (created using 2 or more mediums)
 - 06 Watercolor/Gouache
 - 07 Digital (No photos or “AI”/text-to-image)
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DIVISION 06: WORKSHOP ART (created in a class setting/learning environment)

Classes:

- 01 Portraits
 - 02 Figure Drawing
 - 03 Still Life
 - 04 Landscapes/Scenery
 - 05 Wildlife/Animals
 - 06 Misc. (doesn't fit in above Classes)
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DIVISION 07: SPECIAL CHALLENGE THEMES

Classes:

- 01 Alaska State Fair Theme: “90 Years with You!”
(Celebrating the Alaska State Fair’s 90th Anniversary)
 - 02 Special 2026 Art Theme: “Soaring Onward Together”
(Celebrating USA’s 250th Birthday)
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ENTRY RULES

- All artwork entered in the Alaska State Fair must be created by a human. No “text-to-image”/”AI-generated” entries will be accepted.
- Entries must remain on display for the entirety of the Fair.
- Entries must be created within the past two years (2024 thru 2026).
- Only enter artwork you have not already entered in previous years’ Fairs.
- Artwork must be dry, within size limits, and ready to hang on our 1 inch pegboard system with a proper wire hangar attached directly to the frame. See “Size Requirements” and “Framing and Wire Hangar Requirements” sections for more details.
- All entries must have an attached 3”x 5” index card showing the following info: entrant name, subcategory (Junior A, B, C, (O) Open, or (P) Professional), contact information, and lifetime entry number.
- Please no political slogans/imagery or nudity – such works are prohibited to keep the Alaska State Fair all-inclusive and for all ages.
- No “paint-by-numbers” or other purchase-and-complete art kits.
- Artwork painted on stretched canvas does not need a frame, however must be “finished” on all sides – for example with a solid paint color or a continuation of the painting, also known as a gallery wrap.
- All entries made in an instruction/classroom setting must be entered into Division 07: Workshop Art.
- Artwork and frame only – please no glued-on “extras” unless they fit under the glass.
- Some words are okay, such as signage for ride tickets or boat names, but please limit words to 40% or less of the total artwork – exceptions exist for text as a collaged background element, “Fair Fixtures” such as “Become the “I” in “FAIR” exhibit, etc.
- Please avoid pop-culture characters currently under copyright (modern Disney characters, Pokemon, Marvel Superheroes, etc). Original characters and superheroes are allowed and encouraged!

JUDGING

The Alaska State Fair uses the American System of judging. Design, composition, originality, creativity, color saturation, value, tone lighting, contrast emotional response of the judge(s), technical expertise, and craftsmanship will all be considerations. All work will be judged on presentation, including framing and matting (if used), proper hanging hardware, and cleanliness.

SIZE REQUIREMENTS

Measure one “long” side and one “short” side of your entry – the total length + width (perimeter) of your entry should not measure more than 60 inches, or less than 18 inches. Please make sure all measurements include any framing/matting.

- Minimum standard size allowed: 8 inches by 10 inches or 9 inches by 9 inches
 - Maximum standard size allowed: 24 inches by 36 inches
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FRAMING AND WIRE HANGAR REQUIREMENTS

- Entries that are created on paper, paperboard, or parchment must be framed and under glass. This includes entries in Charcoal, Pencil, Colored Pencil, Ink/Marker, Watercolor, and Pastel entry Classes.
- Entries that are painted on artist panel or canvas board must be framed, but do not need to be under glass.
- Entries on stretched canvas do not require a frame, but must be “finished” on all sides as outlined in the Entry Rules.
- All entries must have wire directly to the frame of the artwork using either eye bolts or D-rings.
- Only wire directly attached to frames.
Please NO:
 - stapled wire,
 - sawtooth style hangars,
 - yarn/thread, fishing wire,
 - wire attached with tape,
 - wire attached to the “backer board” hangars loops
- No “snap fit”, “pressure fit” or “front loading” frames. These are often black or white plastic, sold in multi-packs at major stores and have the glass that “pops” out the front and a pop-off frame stand attached to the back. They always crack in the corners and the glass falls out.

Please no sawtooth-style hangars, yarn/thread, fishing wire, “peel-and-stick” hangars, wire attached to the backing board, or stapled/taped wire.

All entries must be ready to hang on our 1 inch pegboard hook system with sturdy wire attached solidly and directly to the frame of your artwork using either eye bolts or D-rings as shown below:

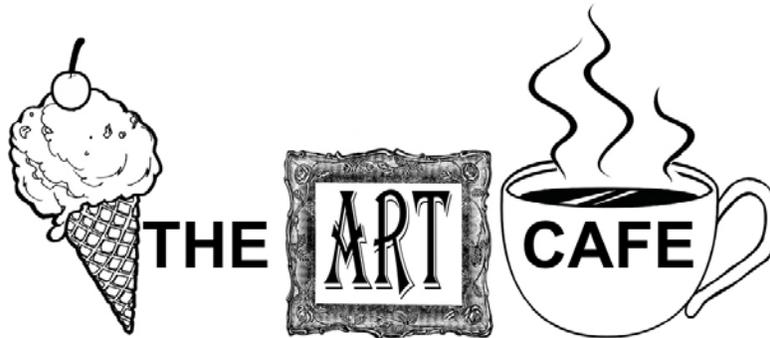


REMINDER:

- The superintendent reserves the right to not hang any entry.
 - Entries not meeting requirements (including framing requirements) will be disqualified.
 - Disqualified entries will not be judged or displayed.
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SPECIAL AWARDS – ART

Outstanding entries will be recognized by these generous donors:



Black Birch Books & Curiosities



Wasilla, Alaska

Let's Crack Some Spines!

Blaines Art

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**Valley Fine Arts
Association**