

2026 Fine Arts Competition

New York State Fair Wegmans Creative Arts Center

(315) 728-4328 – Creative Arts Center Office

nyscreativearts@agriculture.ny.gov

Presented by the New York State Fair, Syracuse, New York 13209,
from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm daily (6:00 pm on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026)

Fees:

- **Exhibitor Fee-\$15.00.**
- **Adult Entry Fee -\$7.00 per article - Maximum Eight (8).**
- **Senior Entry Fee-\$5.00 per article - Maximum Four (4).**
- **NEW! NO ENTRY FEES for Youth entries - Maximum Four (4) articles.**

FINE ARTS RULES:

1. Please see the Creative Arts Center General Rules and Regulations and the Creative Arts Center Exhibitor Schedule that is on the NYS Fair website under Creative Arts Center. This schedule contains all dates and times that pertain to entering and exhibiting in the NYS Fair Creative Arts Center Competitions.
2. The rules printed herein are made a part of the conditions under which all entries of exhibitors are made, and exhibitors are respectfully requested to read them carefully, thereby avoiding confusion at the time of the competition and to make certain in which classes their entries belong.
3. **DIVISIONS:**
 - A - Professional is defined as (but not limited to): i.e., instructors, teachers, judges, artists, or anyone who sells their work either directly or through a third party., i.e., internet, galleries, or art shows, etc.
 - B - Amateur is defined as: any individual who participates strictly as a hobby.
 - C – Youth who have completed Grades 1 – 4
 - D – Youth who have completed Grades 5 – 8
 - E – Youth who have completed Grades 9 – 12
 - F – Senior is defined as any individual who is 65 years of age or older after March 1st of the calendar year.
 - G – Wildlife Art Division

PLEASE NOTE: If you are considered a Professional, you are **NOT** eligible to enter the Senior or Youth Division, no matter the age. If you enter as a Youth or as a Senior,

you are **NOT** eligible to enter as an Amateur. IF you enter as an Amateur, you are **NOT** eligible to enter as a Youth or as a Senior.

4. Artwork that is deemed an infringement of unauthorized copy will be disqualified.
5. **EXHIBITOR TAGS:** You will receive your exhibitor tag when you drop off your item on receiving days. You will be responsible for attaching tags to your artwork. Please remember to remove your entry tag claim stub. The only exception to this is mailed in entries. The Fine Arts Department Staff will assist with this. **NEW Please remember to complete the New York State Fair Shipping Form and the New York State Fair Entry Label for mailed in entries.**
6. **Presentation:** All 2D work must be installation-ready with appropriate frame and hanging wire. Unframed work on paper or mats will not be accepted. Unwired 2D artwork will not be accepted. “Gallery Wrapped” canvases must have the sides painted and be properly wired or they will not be accepted. All artworks should arrive **DRY! NO Exceptions.** Artwork may be signed if desired, but signature should be covered with painter’s tape for judging purposes only. Painter’s tape will be removed from accepted artwork so that signatures can be displayed during the fair. Articles not meeting this requirement may not be judged.

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRESENTATION
REQUIREMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.**

7. **DIMENSIONS:** Maximum dimension for Paintings, Graphics/Drawing, and Mixed Media is 50” x 50”. The maximum dimension for Sculpture is 3’ any direction and no more than 30 lbs. in weight.
8. **FEES: \$15.00 Exhibitor Fee**
 - **The entry fee is \$7.00 per article for adult entries.** An Adult exhibitor, Professional or Amateur, may enter a maximum of **Eight (8)** entries. Only **Two (2)** entries per class, this includes Division G, Wildlife Art.
 - **The entry fee is \$5.00 per article for Senior entries.** Seniors may enter a maximum of **Four (4)** entries. Only **Two (2)** entries per class, this includes Division G, Wildlife Art.
 - **There is NO ENTRY FEE for Youth entries.** Youths may enter a maximum of **Four (4)** entries. Only **Two (2)** entries per class, this includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

1. **NOTIFICATION:** Exhibitors will receive an email(s) notifying you if your entry(s) was “Accepted” or “Not Accepted” by 4:00 pm Friday following judging days. If you have not received an email by Monday, August 17, you may call the Creative Arts Center Office at 315-728-4328 or email Yvonne.bakowski2@agriculture.ny.gov to verify the status of your entry(s). **PLEASE NOTE** that results will **NOT** be given. **NEW!** **Non-Accepted Pick-Up Day is now on Tuesday, August 18 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. All entries not picked up on that day will be put in storage until after the fair.**
- 9.
10. **SALE OF WORK:** The New York State Fair will not handle the sale of any artwork in the exhibition. Names, addresses and phone numbers of interested parties will be attached to the back of your work by Gallery Staff. The artist is responsible for contacting possible buyers. Please note that if you are entered as an amateur and you sell your work, you must enter as a professional for the next fair.

DIVISION A – PROFESSIONAL

You are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Eight (8) total.

This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

IF you enter as a Professional, you are **NOT** eligible to enter as a Youth or as a Senior.

CLASS:

	1st	2nd	3rd
1. Painting: Includes oil, acrylic, watercolor and any other <u>medium applied with a brush</u> on canvas, board or paper. Also includes collage on canvas, or pastels (when the majority of the pastel is applied with a brush). <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”.	\$150	\$100	\$50
2. Graphics/Drawing: This includes all drawing, graphics, illustration, pastel, and printmaking. More specifically, it involves <u>any medium applied directly to the surface by hand</u> and with the assistance of brush, pen, or another tool. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”.	\$150	\$100	\$50
3. 3D Sculpture: Three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage made from any safe, not-toxic material. <u>Please Note:</u> Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3’ any direction.	\$150	\$100	\$50
4. Mixed Media: Includes any two (2) or more very unlike mediums or techniques employed in the same piece. NOTE: Graphite & Colored Pencil are considered too similar. Mixed Media works are executed on one surface and involve several different mediums. Fiber art is included. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”.	\$150	\$100	\$50

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Professional Division.

DIVISION B – AMATEUR

You are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Eight (8) total.

This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

IF you enter as an Amateur, you are **NOT** eligible to enter as a Youth or as a Senior.

CLASS:

	1st	2nd	3rd
1. Painting: Includes oil, acrylic, watercolor and any other <u>medium applied with a brush</u> on canvas, board or paper. Also includes collage on canvas, or pastels (when the majority of the pastel is applied with a brush). <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50".	\$100	\$75	\$25
2. Graphics/Drawing: This includes all drawing, graphics, illustration, pastel, and printmaking. More specifically, it involves <u>any medium applied directly to the surface by hand</u> and with the assistance of brush, pen, or another tool. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50".	\$100	\$75	\$25
3. 3D Sculpture: Three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage made from any safe, not-toxic material. <u>Please Note:</u> Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction.	\$100	\$75	\$25
4. Mixed Media: Includes any two (2) or more very unlike mediums or techniques employed in the same piece. NOTE: Graphite & Colored Pencil are considered too similar. Mixed Media works are executed on one surface and involve several different mediums. Fiber art is included. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50".	\$100	\$75	\$25

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Amateur Division.

DIVISION C – YOUTH: GRADES 1 – 4

You are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Four (4) total.
This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

This Division is especially designed for children who have completed Grades 1 - 4.
The criteria are the same as the Amateur Class, with the exception of the age restriction.
IF you enter as a Youth, you are **NOT** eligible to enter as an Amateur.

CLASS:

- | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Painting: Includes oil, acrylic, watercolor and any other <u>medium applied with a brush</u> on canvas, board or paper. Also includes collage on canvas, or pastels (when the majority of the pastel is applied with a brush). <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50". | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 2. Graphics/Drawing: This includes all drawing, graphics, illustration, pastel, and printmaking. More specifically, it involves <u>any medium applied directly to the surface by hand</u> and with the assistance of brush, pen, or another tool. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50". | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 3. 3D Sculpture: Three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage. made from any safe, not-toxic material. <u>Please Note:</u> Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 4. Mixed Media: Includes any two (2) or more very unlike mediums or techniques employed in the same piece. NOTE: Graphite & Colored Pencil are considered too similar. Mixed Media works are executed on one surface. and involve several different mediums. Fiber art is included. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50". | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Youth Division.

DIVISION D – YOUTH: GRADES 5 - 8

You are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Four (4) total.
This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

This Division is especially designed for children who have completed Grades 5 - 8.
The criteria is the same as the Amateur Class, with the exception of the age restriction.
IF you enter as a Youth, you are **NOT** eligible to enter as an Amateur.

CLASS:

- | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Painting: Includes oil, acrylic, watercolor and any other <u>medium applied with a brush</u> on canvas, board or paper. Also includes collage on canvas, or pastels (when the majority of the pastel is applied with a brush). <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 2. Graphics/Drawing: This includes all drawing, graphics, illustration, pastel, and printmaking. More specifically, it involves <u>any medium applied directly to the surface by hand</u> and with the assistance of brush, pen, or another tool. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 3. 3D Sculpture: Three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage. made from any safe, not-toxic material. <u>Please Note:</u> Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3’ any direction. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 4. Mixed Media: Includes any two (2) or more very unlike mediums or techniques employed in the same piece. NOTE: Graphite & Colored Pencil are considered too similar. Mixed Media works are executed on one surface. and involve several different mediums. Fiber art is included. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Youth Division.

DIVISION E – YOUTH: GRADES 9 - 12

You are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Four (4) total.
This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

This Division is especially designed for children who have completed Grades 9 - 12.
The criteria is the same as the Amateur Class, with the exception of the age restriction.
IF you enter as a Youth, you are **NOT** eligible to enter as an Amateur.

CLASS:

- | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Painting: Includes oil, acrylic, watercolor and any other <u>medium applied with a brush</u> on canvas, board or paper. Also includes collage on canvas, or pastels (when the majority of the pastel is applied with a brush). <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 2. Graphics/Drawing: This includes all drawing, graphics, illustration, pastel, and printmaking. More specifically, it involves <u>any medium applied directly to the surface by hand</u> and with the assistance of brush, pen, or another tool. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 3. 3D Sculpture: Three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage. made from any safe, not-toxic material. <u>Please Note:</u> Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3’ any direction. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |
| 4. Mixed Media: Includes any two (2) or more very unlike mediums or techniques employed in the same piece. NOTE: Graphite & Colored Pencil are considered too similar. Mixed Media works are executed on one surface and involve several different mediums. Fiber art is included. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50” x 50”. | Ribbon | Ribbon | Ribbon |

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Youth Division.

DIVISION F – SENIOR

You are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Four (4) total.
This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

This Division is especially designed for adults who are 65 or older.

The criteria is the same as the Amateur Class, with the exception of the age restriction.

IF you are a professional, you are **NOT** eligible to enter as a Senior. **IF** you enter as a Senior, you are **NOT** eligible to enter as an Amateur.

CLASS:

	1st	2nd	3rd
1. Painting: Includes oil, acrylic, watercolor and any other <u>medium applied with a brush</u> on canvas, board or paper. Also includes collage on canvas, or pastels (when the majority of the pastel is applied with a brush). <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50".	\$35	\$25	\$15
2. Graphics/Drawing: This includes all drawing, graphics, illustration, pastel, and printmaking. More specifically, it involves <u>any medium applied directly to the surface by hand</u> and with the assistance of brush, pen, or another tool. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50".	\$35	\$25	\$15
3. 3D Sculpture: Three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage. made from any safe, not-toxic material. <u>Please Note:</u> Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction.	\$35	\$25	\$15
4. Mixed Media: Includes any two (2) or more very unlike mediums or techniques employed in the same piece. NOTE: Graphite & Colored Pencil are considered too similar. Mixed Media works are executed on one surface and involve several different mediums. Fiber art is included. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50".	\$35	\$25	\$15

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Senior Division.

DIVISION G – WILDLIFE ART

This exhibit is open to any wildlife artist residing in New York State.
There are two major classes of entries; 2D (any medium) and 3D Sculpture (wood, metal, clay, etc.) Wildlife must be the predominant theme of the artwork.

Professionals are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Eight (8) total. This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

Amateurs are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Eight (8) total. This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

Youths are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Four (4) total. This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

Seniors are allowed to enter Two (2) entries per class with a maximum of Four (4) total. This includes Division G, Wildlife Art.

PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE ART

CLASS:

	1st	2nd	3rd
1. Painting: Any medium applied by brush, Graphics/Drawing: Any medium applied by hand, Mixed Media: Includes 2 or more very unlike mediums or techniques. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50".	\$150	\$100	\$50
2. 3D Sculpture: Three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage made from any safe, not-toxic material. <u>Please Note:</u> Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction.	\$150	\$100	\$50

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Professional Division.

AMATEUR WILDLIFE ART

CLASS:

3. **Painting:** Any medium applied by brush,
Graphics/Drawing: Any medium applied by hand,
Mixed Media: Includes 2 or more very unlike mediums
or techniques. **Please Note:** Size limited to 50" x 50".

1st	2nd	3rd
\$100	\$75	\$25

4. **3D Sculpture:** Three-dimensional work of art that can
be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage
made from any safe, not-toxic material.
Please Note: Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction.

\$100	\$75	\$25
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Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Amateur Division.

YOUTH: GRADES 1 - 4 WILDLIFE ART

CLASS:

5. **Painting:** Any medium applied by brush,
Graphics/Drawing: Any medium applied by hand,
Mixed Media: Includes 2 or more very unlike mediums
or techniques. **Please Note:** Size limited to 50" x 50".

1st	2nd	3rd
Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon

6. **3D Sculpture:** Three-dimensional work of art that can
be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage
made from any safe, not-toxic material.
Please Note: Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction.

Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon
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Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Youth Division.

YOUTH: GRADES 5 - 8 WILDLIFE ART

CLASS:

7. **Painting:** Any medium applied by brush,
Graphics/Drawing: Any medium applied by hand,
Mixed Media: Includes 2 or more very unlike mediums
or techniques. **Please Note:** Size limited to 50" x 50".

1st 2nd 3rd
Ribbon Ribbon Ribbon

8. **3D Sculpture:** Three-dimensional work of art that can
be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage
made from any safe, not-toxic material.
Please Note: Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction.

Ribbon Ribbon Ribbon

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Youth Division.

YOUTH: GRADES 9 - 12 WILDLIFE ART

CLASS:

9. **Painting:** Any medium applied by brush,
Graphics/Drawing: Any medium applied by hand,
Mixed Media: Includes 2 or more very unlike mediums
or techniques. **Please Note:** Size limited to 50" x 50".

1st 2nd 3rd
Ribbon Ribbon Ribbon

10. **3D Sculpture:** Three-dimensional work of art that can
be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage
made from any safe, not-toxic material.
Please Note: Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction.

Ribbon Ribbon Ribbon

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Youth Division.

SENIOR WILDLIFE ART

CLASS:

	1st	2nd	3rd
11. Painting: Any medium applied by brush, Graphics/Drawing: Any medium applied by hand, Mixed Media: Includes 2 or more very unlike mediums or techniques. <u>Please Note:</u> Size limited to 50" x 50".	\$35	\$25	\$15
12. 3D Sculpture: Three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 365 degrees. Includes relief and assemblage made from any safe, not-toxic material. <u>Please Note:</u> Weight limit is 30 lbs. max. and 3' any direction.	\$35	\$25	\$15

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be presented for each class in the Senior Division.

FINE ARTS SPECIAL AWARDS

**THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR "BEST OF SHOW - ADULT" IS
DETERMINED FROM ALL CLASSES IN
DIVISIONS A, B, & G COMBINED.
\$150.00 AWARD**

**THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR "BEST OF SHOW - YOUTH" IS
DETERMINED FROM ALL CLASSES IN
DIVISIONS C, D, E & G (YOUTH) COMBINED.**

**THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR "BEST OF SHOW - SENIOR" IS
DETERMINED FROM ALL CLASSES IN
DIVISIONS F & G (SENIOR) COMBINED.
\$75.00 AWARD**