



FINE ARTS COMPETITION

Competitive Exhibits Office
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ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION STARTS APRIL 1, 2026

ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION CLOSES JULY 13, 2026

ENTRY DROP OFF JULY 18, 2026, 9AM-3PM and JULY 21, 2026, 12PM-6PM

ENTRY REMOVAL AUGUST 26, 2026, 12PM-6PM and AUGUST 27, 2026, 3PM-7PM

Entry Fee: \$25.00 allows entries throughout Departments in Creative Arts, Ag-Grange, and Environment and Sportsman. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Ages: 18 & Up

Prize Checks: Available Tuesday, August 18, 2026, between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the Creative Arts Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks not picked up by Sunday, August 23, 2026, will be mailed.
***Checks are VOID 60 days from issue date and WILL NOT BE REISSUED. Ribbons will not be mailed.**

Fine Arts Competition Rules:

1. Please read and abide by all The Erie County Fair rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Monday, July 13, 2026.** For more information see the Important Entry Information page at <https://www.ecfair.org/p/competitions/fine-arts-photography>
3. Anyone 18 years old and older is eligible to enter this competition.
4. An exhibitor can only participate in **ONE (1) DIVISION ONLY**. You must identify novice, amateur, or professional.
5. Exhibitors are **limited to a total of two (2) entries in Fine Arts. There is a limit of one (1) entry per class in all fair competitions.**
6. All paintings must be well-framed and wired for hanging. Drawings, pastels, and watercolors must have mats and be protected with glass. Oil and acrylic paintings should not be matted or behind glass. A well-framed picture must be wired with flexible picture hanging wire, fastened to d-Rings/screw eyes. The same applies to metal frames with sliding hangers, which must be attached, approximately 4" from the top. Plastic frames, sawtooth bars, unframed wooden panels, hook holders embedded in cardboard backing, cardboard loops, screws, thumbtacks and string will be disqualified due to the safety of our show. (Quality of framing is the discretion of the superintendent and will be rejected if unsatisfactory). Refer to the "Framing and Wiring" tutorial on www.ecfair.org.
7. No frame is needed for **gallery canvases** (1 ¼" or more depth) for a painting only. See the "Selecting Your Canvas" tutorial on <https://www.ecfair.org/p/competitions/fine-arts-photography>
8. **ARTWORK SIZE MAXIMUM OF 24" (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE MAT OR FRAME)**
9. All artwork will be inspected upon arrival to make sure it adheres to all rules and requirements (size, framing, etc.) If any artwork does not meet the requirements, it will not be accepted. Please go to the website <https://www.ecfair.org/p/competitions/fine-arts-photography> to see tutorials on requirements.
10. **Works shown in former years will not be accepted. All work must have been completed by the exhibitor in the last five (5) years.**
11. **Artwork created with Artificial Intelligence (AI) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Superintendent will disqualify entry if the artwork shows signs of AI creation.**

Judging Criteria

- 20% Appearance and overall presentation (includes artwork and framing)
- 20% Subject matter fulfills the category and degree of difficulty is appropriate for the artist's ability
- 30% Uniqueness of the artwork; use of medium in a new, non-traditional way
- 30% Composition of the entry; elements of art used (line, texture, space, color, value, proportion, shape)

FINE ARTS COMPETITION CLASSES

Premiums Offered: Novice: 1st Place Blue \$10, 2nd Place Red \$5

Amateur: 1st Place Blue \$15, 2nd Place Red \$10

Professional: 1st Place Red \$20, 2nd Place Red \$15

Tri-Color: \$25 & Eligible for *Best of Tri-Color Award*

*Tri-Color is an honorary award chosen by the judge for the outstanding article among those entered in competition in each section.

Novice-1

1. Abstract - Non-representational, 2-Dimensional
2. Animal Study - Domestic or Wild Animals
3. Human Study - Portrait or Figure Drawing
4. Still Life - Flower Study, Food
5. Landscape - Includes Seascape and Cityscape
6. Digital Art - Graphic Design and Digital Illustration
7. Miscellaneous - Prints, Silkscreen, Collage, etc.
8. Genre Art - Scenes of everyday life, ordinary people, and common activities
9. Picturing America - Artwork depicting famous landmarks in America
10. Sensory and Tactile Art - Artwork meant to be experienced through touch

Amateur-2

1. Abstract – Non-representational, 2-Dimensional
2. Animal Study - Domestic or Wild Animals
3. Human Study - Portrait or Figure Drawing
4. Still Life - Flower Study, Food
5. Landscape - Includes Seascape and Cityscape
6. Digital Art - Graphic Design and Digital Illustration
7. Miscellaneous - Prints, Silkscreen, Collage, etc.
8. Genre Art - Scenes of everyday life, ordinary people, and common activities
9. Picturing America - Artwork depicting famous landmarks in America
10. Sensory and Tactile Art - Artwork meant to be experienced through touch

Professional-3

1. Abstract - Non-representational, 2-Dimensional
2. Animal Study - Domestic or Wild Animals
3. Human Study - Portrait or Figure Drawing
4. Still Life - Flower Study, Food
5. Landscape - Includes Seascape and Cityscape
6. Digital Art - Graphic Design and Digital Illustration

7. Miscellaneous - Prints, Silkscreen, Collage, etc.
8. Genre Art - Scenes of everyday life, ordinary people, and common activities
9. Picturing America - Artwork depicting famous landmarks in America
10. Sensory and Tactile Art - Artwork meant to be experienced through touch