# 2026 Georgia National Fair FINE ART

Entry Deadline August 8

# GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR FINE ARTS

## Fine Arts Superintendent

Diana McClarnon, Perry

The annual juried competition of Fine Arts, presented during the Georgia National Fair, October 8-18, 2026, provides an opportunity for Georgia artists to exhibit their work before an audience of more than 500,000 people who attend the Fair. The exhibition will be located in the Miller-Murphy-Howard Building.

### CALENDAR

**August 8** - ***Deadline for images and fees to arrive.***

**August 30** - Notification of accepted/unaccepted works by email and posted on website.

**September 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** - Hand delivery of accepted works. Artwork will not be accepted outside of scheduled hours.

**October 8, 3 p.m.-10 p.m., October 9-18, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.** - Exhibition open.

**October 20** - Art pickup, **12 noon - 8 p.m.**

**October 21** - Art pickup, **10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**October 26** - Begin return of shipped works.

**WORK NOT PICKED UP WILL BECOME PROPERTY OF THE FAIR.**

### ELIGIBILITY

1. ***All exhibitors are required to read and abide by the Georgia National Fair General Rules and Regulations.*** *PLEASE NOTE: IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES. If you have questions, you may certainly e-mail us at contests@gnfa.com. Please help us prevent entry disqualifications.*
2. Open to all Georgia artists who are 18 years of age or older (high school students must enter in the Youth Art Competition).
3. Artists may enter up to **five** works per category **of their own original and untutored work.** Each piece must be an original work of art and not a replication of another work.
4. **YOU MAY NOT COPY ANOTHER ARTIST'S WORK**.
5. Works previously shown in this exhibition may not be entered.
6. **Works must have been completed within the last three years.**
7. Each entry will consist of a single piece of art. All pieces must be attached. Exception - vessels with lids and items that require stands. Sets of multiple pieces are not allowed.
8. All entries must have a title. "Untitled" is not an acceptable title. Except for typos or misspellings, no changes will be made to titles after registration.
9. The size limit for all hanging art work is 5' x 5', including the frame. Art should not extend more than 2" from the picture plane. Work must be framed and ready for hanging with secure hooks and wires. No sawtooth hangers.
10. Watercolors, graphics, and dry media must be covered with glass or Plexiglas.
11. Works on canvas may be unframed, but sides of canvas (gallery wrap) must be painted with a continuation of the artwork, or a solid color - not white. Canvas must be stretched on frame and stapled on back, not on sides.
12. Sculpture and floor pieces must fit within a 4' x 4' space, be free standing, and not weigh more than 150 pounds, unless previously approved. No installations, please.
13. Accepted work which differs from the image submitted for jury will be disqualified.
14. No accepted entry may be withdrawn prior to the close of the exhibition. Early removal will result in forfeiture of prizes and disqualification from future shows.
15. Unlike a traditional art gallery, the Georgia National Fair patrons consist largely of families with children. Exhibits must be suitable for family viewing. The Georgia National Fair reserves the right to reject any exhibit offered if it is objectionable. This includes, but is not limited to: images of nudity or graphic violence, profanity, and depictions of a sexually explicit nature. Decisions of the Georgia National Fair will be final.

## ENTRY PROCESS

16. Registration for Fine Art is online only. Online entries will open on July 1. The link to online registration can be found at: ***https://www.georgianationalfair.com/p/georgialiving/finearts*.**

17. All images will be submitted electronically in JPEG format along with your entries. One image for each two dimensional piece entered and up to two images for each three dimensional piece may be submitted, except in special categories where only one image is required.

If you have multiple entries, be sure to match the image to the title displayed when you upload.

## ENTRY FEES

18. Non-refundable entry fees are $10 per work, payable to the Georgia National Fair, upon entry submission.

19. Most major credit cards are accepted for registration fees.

## ACCEPTED WORKS

20. Artists will be notified of accepted work by email from contests@gnfa.com. A separate email will be sent for each work entered. A list of accepted works will also be posted online at: ***https://www.georgianationalfair.com/p/georgialiving/finearts*** in the Information section.

21. Decisions of the juror(s) will be final.

## SALES

22. Unless specified NFS, it is assumed that all work is for sale. Please provide a price with your entry. No commission will be attached to sales. Sold works other than Purchase Awards will be coordinated through the artist and all works must remain on exhibition until scheduled pickup after the close of the show.

## LIABILITY

23. Every reasonable precaution will be taken during the receiving, installation, exhibition, and return of work, but the Georgia National Fair, its employees and volunteers, will assume no responsibility for loss or damage incurred.

24. Artists should carry their own insurance.

25. Work should not be so fragile that shipment or public display is potentially harmful to the work or the viewer.

## AWARDS

26. Merit and Purchase Awards are available in addition to cash prizes offered for each category. Premium checks will be mailed within 6 weeks of the end of the fair.

## PURCHASE AWARDS

27. The Georgia National Fair Fine Arts Purchase Awards Program benefits both the patron and the artist. Art patrons pledge to buy art from works submitted to the Georgia National Fair Fine Arts Competition and Exhibition. The amount a patron pledges is the ***minimum*** they will spend to buy art from a single artist. For instance, if a patron pledges $500 and desires a work priced at $350, the patron will pay the artist the pledged amount of $500. A patron may buy more than one piece from the same artist for the pledged amount if the works are priced within that amount. A patron may increase their commitment in order to purchase a favored piece. Because no commission is charged and because patrons take a risk in making a pledge to buy, **we ask the artists to submit a reduced price for the Fine Art Patron Purchase Awards along with a regular price to the general public.**

28. **Pre-sold works or commissioned works are not eligible for the purchase awards program, nor are works not on display at the show.**

29. Entry in this competition grants permission to the Georgia National Fair to use images for promotional purposes in publications and social media. It is the artist's responsibility to obtain permission from people featured in their artwork.

## *Best of Show Awards*

***$500 Amateur***

***$2000* Open/Professional**

## AMATEUR DIVISION

*For the beginner or the exhibitor with limited experience who has yet to reach an accomplished level of the art. An artist who accumulates 10 first place ribbons or wins Best of Show more than once will be required to move up to the Open/Professional Division. Judges reserve the right to move works from Amateur to Professional if quality of the work merits.*

| 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---|---|---|
| $200 | $100 | $75 |

## OPEN/PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

*For the exhibitor (professional or amateur) whose work is competitive at the highest level of his/her art. Professionals are those people who teach fine art, have a degree in fine arts, and/or receive income from their art.*

| 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---|---|---|
| $300 | $200 | $100 |

# CATEGORIES

## 2-D Entries
## (Single medium, except for Mixed Media and Miniatures)

**1 Drawing:** charcoal, colored pencil, pastel, pen and ink, pencil
**2 Fiber Art:** art quilts, weaving, etc., that is designed to hang flat against a wall
**3 Miniature 2-D:** painting, drawing, original print (woodcuts, etching, silk screen, etc. Artist must have created plates; prints of existing artwork are not acceptable.) No numbered prints accepted. All miniatures must be a small scale rendering of life-size objects, usually 1/10 or smaller. Life-size images that fit the dimensions will not be accepted. If the dimensions of the actual subject matter are less than twice the size of the miniature, the piece will not be accepted. Maximum image size is 4 x 6 inches.
**4 Mixed Media:** any 2-D artwork that includes more than a single medium (as objects attached to a canvas, fabric painted and then embellished)
**5 Painting on canvas or panel:** oil, acrylic, encaustic, tempera, etc.
**6 Painting on paper or watercolor canvas:** water media (painting on YUPO is considered mixed media)
**7 Stained glass and mosaics**
**8 Any other two dimensional:** Artwork that does not fit in the above listed categories - computer generated artwork or original print (woodcuts, etching, silk screen, etc. - artist must have created plates; prints of existing artwork are not acceptable.) No numbered prints accepted.

## 3-D Entries
## (Single medium, except for Mixed Media)

**9 Basketry/Fiber:** coiling, mold woven, traditional and non-traditional basket weaving; rugs, etc., of *original design* (Hand spinning and weaving should be entered in the Spinning and Weaving Show).
**10 Gourd Art:** gourds that are painted or embellished, wood burned, carved, etc.
**11 Metal Smithing:** jewelry and art metal craft.
**12 Mixed Media:** any 3-D artwork that includes more than a single medium
**13 Pottery and Glass:** functional and art pieces not suitable for the sculpture category
**14 Sculpture:** single medium (sculpture defined as the art of making three-dimensional representative or abstract forms, especially by carving stone or wood or by casting metal or plaster.)

## SPECIAL CATEGORIES

**These categories will be juried separately from other categories. First place winners will be eligible for the Department Best of Show Award.**

**1 Georgia National Fair:** works depicting any recognizable aspect of the Georgia National Fair
**2 The Livestock Show:** works depicting domestic animals typically raised on a farm; does not include pets such as cats, dogs, birds, etc. Works will be judged on accurate depiction of the subject.
**3 Wildlife:** works depicting animals found in the wild. Works will be judged on accurate depiction of the species.

## 2026 SELECTED FEATURE:

### "ZOOM IN - WHAT IS IT?"

***The Selected Feature will be juried separately from other categories. First place winners eligible for the Department Best of Show Award.***
***Amateur and Open/Professional Divisions with category prize money set forth above will apply.***

For this category, artists will submit works based on an extreme close-up of an item. Accepted works will be turned in along with a 4X6 photo of the actual item to be displayed with the artwork. *For example, if an artist takes a picture of a bird, then zooms in and paints a picture of the texture of the beak, they would include a picture of the bird or the bird's beak, not the image zoomed in.*

**1 2-D Works on Canvas or Panel**
**2 2-D Works on Paper**
**3 2-D Mixed Media Works**
**4 2-D Works Other Than Listed**
**5 3-D Works**

***The Selected Feature will change each year. The 2027 Selected Feature will be "Imagine the Future". Artists will submit works based on a futuristic theme. Categories will include Architecture, Fashion, Travel, and AI Generated Art.***

The Georgia National Fair Fine Arts Merit Awards Program gives the patron the opportunity to reward an artist for a piece that may not have placed, but the patron feels has merit. The patron pledges a certain amount which is awarded to the artist, but the artist retains possession of the piece. Artists for Art Merit Awards are funded through contributions by Georgia Artists.

**For more information, or to make a Merit or Purchase Award Pledge, contact the Georgia Living Department at contests@gnfa.com or (478) 988-6555.**

## 2026 GEORGIA ARTISTS FOR ART

Karin D. Anderson, Byron
JoAnn Camp, Greenville
Joyce Davis, Elberton
Billy Dykes, Valdosta
Larry & Edna Garrett, Perry
Tim & Linda Gerard, Marshallville
Nancy Suffolk Guerine, Woodstock
Sallie & Mike Jaros, Fort Valley
Madelyn Wharton, Milledgeville

## ADDITIONAL MERIT AWARDS 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| $1100 | Georgia Artists for Art (Eleven $100 Awards) |
| $300 | Frito-Lay, Inc. |
| $300 | Pruett A/C HOT! Art |
| $200 | In Memory of Ernie Mills |
| $200 | In Memory of Jim & Pat Madison (Four $50 Awards) |
| $200 | Lamar Holland |
| $100 | Atlanta Woodcarvers |
| $100 | Flaming Fireball (Two $50 Awards) |
| $100 | In Memory of Doug Cross |
| $100 | In Memory of Doug Cross (Two $50 Awards) |
| $100 | In Memory of Doug Cross Walking Stick |
| $100 | In Memory of Ernie Mills (Two $50 Awards) |
| $100 | In Memory of Yurly Pivoshenko |
| $100 | Oleane Carden Zenoble |
| $100 | Paul & Jill Harman |
| $100 | Porcelain Art Guild Leona Clement Chapter |
| $100 | Wednesday Art Group (Two $50 Awards) |
| $50 | Ron Dawes |
| $50 | Fine Art Society of Middle Georgia |
| $50 | In Memory of Frank W. “Bill” Jaros |
| $50 | In Memory of Keith White |
| $50 | In Memory of Pennie Sunderman |
| $50 | Karin Anderson |
| $50 | Larry & Edna Garrett |
| $50 | Nellie Asuncion Ralat |
| $50 | The Mobleys |
| $50 | The Painted Door Art Gallery |
| $50 | Twelve Stone Infusion Center |

## PURCHASE AWARDS 2026*

| | |
|---|---|
| $1,000 | Georgia National Fair |
| $500 | Reithoffer Shows, Inc. |
| $300 | Lynn & David Morley |
| $300 | Simply Southern Sweets Bakery |
| $150 | Jim & Diana McClarnon |
| $100 | Catherine Collver (Two $50 Awards) |
| $100 | Ikner |
| $100 | In Memory of Keith White |
| $100 | Runyon Family |
| $100 | Oleane Carden Zenoble |
| $100 | Bob Zenoble (Two $50 Awards) |
| $100 | Oleane Carden Zenoble |
| $50 | Lora Arledge |
| $50 | Farrell Bass |
| $50 | In Memory of Tobin Hitch |
| $50 | Jack & Sonia Guido |
| $50 | John & Jennifer Garlock |
| $50 | Sandy Kusuda |
| $50 | Elaine Martin-Weigandt |
| $50 | Gail Yawn |

*Pre-sold works or commissioned works are not eligible for the Purchase Awards program.

# 2025 AWARD WINNERS

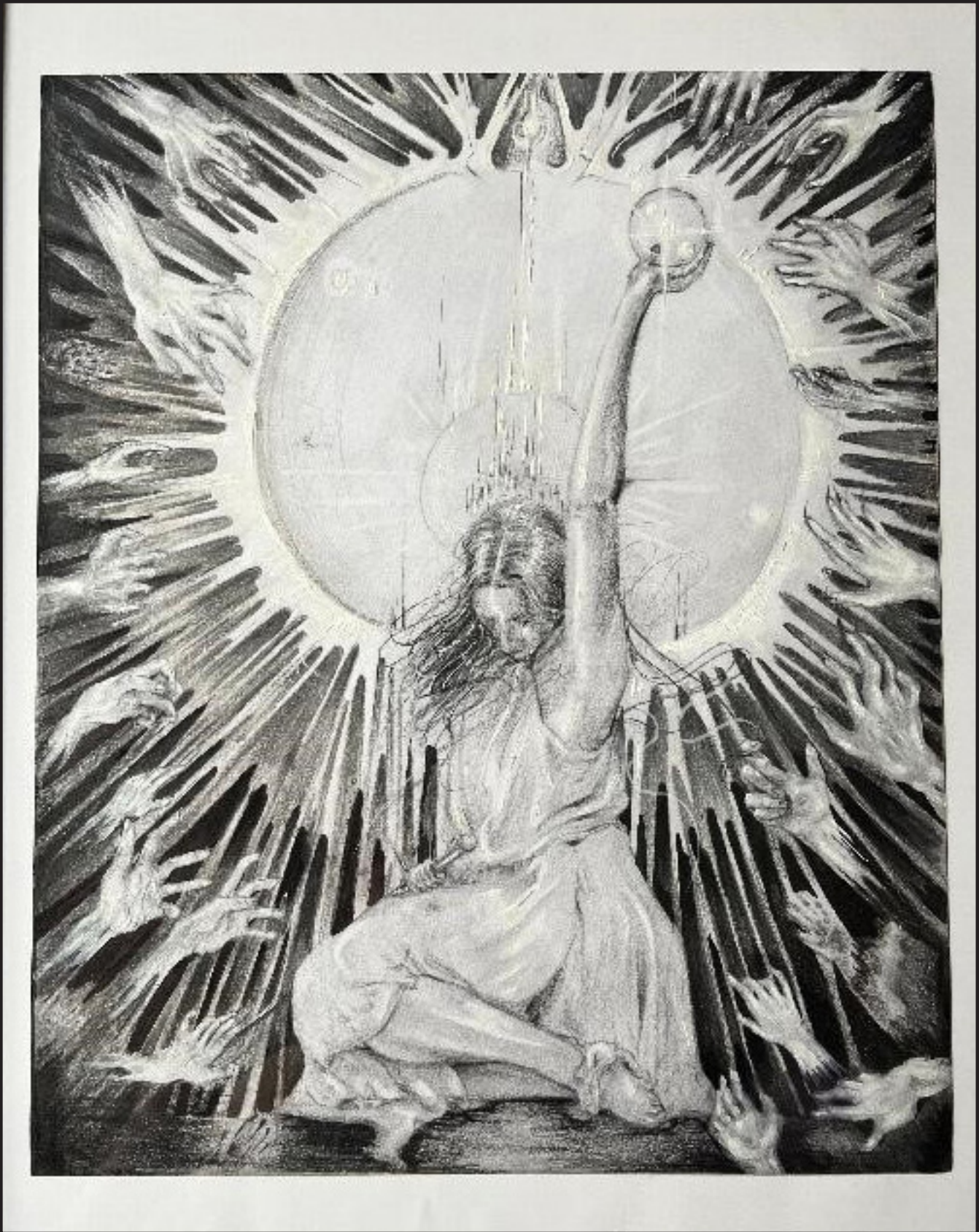
## *2025 Fine Art Purchase Awards:*

Georgia National Fair Purchase Award.....Dana Thompson, *Old Red*
Catherine Collver Purchase Award.....Christine Reynolds, *Here Kitty*
Catherine Collver Purchase Award.....Terri Seigel, *Am I Too Close?*
Dianne Everidge Purchase Award.....Janet Peters, *Box Of Flowers W/lusters*
Gail Yawn Purchase Award.....Anna Nichols, *Double Violets*
Ikner Purchase Award.....Joshua Hatfield, *Feed Me!*
In Memory of Tobin Hitch Purchase Award.....Arnold Smith, *Painter*
In Memory of Troy Young Purchase Award.....Joy Dumas, *Paddling Into Autumn*
Jack & Sonia Guido Purchase Award.....Anna Nichols, *Santa's Bear*
Jim & Diana McClarnon Purchase Award.....Cathy Compton, *Gopher Tortoise*
John & Kathie Stone Purchase Award.....Bronwyn Young, *Hidden Bliss*
Kenneth & Kellie Day Purchase Award.....Sharon Smith, *Caribbean Sunset*
Lynn & David Morley Purchase Award.....Chris Wilson, *Emerging Green Heron*
Mike & Sallie Jaros Purchase Award.....Larue Huckaby, *Fluffy Cat*
Oleane Carden Zenoble Purchase Award.....Frankie Nobles, *Bird On Lily*
Oleane Carden Zenoble Purchase Award.....Frankie Nobles, *Cute Little Rabbits*
Pruett A/C Hot! Purchase Award.....Melanie Handy, *Aspen Glow*
Reithoffer Shows, Inc. Purchase Award.....Chris Wilson, *Night Watch*
Sandy Kusuda Purchase Award.....Nana Huang, *Southern Grace*
Simply Southern Sweets Bakery Purchase Award.....Chris Wilson, *Search*
Sybil Ryan Purchase Award.....Larue Huckaby, *Mount Up With Wings Of Eagles*

**Cover artwork:**
***Old Red***
**by Dana Thompson, Milledgeville**

**2025 Georgia National Fair Purchase Award**

Georgia National Fair Best of Show, Open/Professional
*Bougainvillea*
Cheryl Bush, Byron



Georgia National Fair Best of Show, Amateur
*Light Bearer*
Leah Davis, Lilburn

# 2025 AWARD WINNERS

## *Georgia Artists for Art Merit Awards:*

Terri Bennett, *Downtown Lines*
Steve Boykin, *Ezigbo Mmadu*
Kathy Claxton, *Gardening Tools*
Nicholaus Crawford, *Secretary*
Donna McLoughlin, *Eggtastic*
Jorah Mitchell, *Unbridled*
Beth Westberry, *Watchful Eye*
Robert Whitney, *Old Man Look At My Life*
Marian Zielinski, *Blue Garden*

## *2025 Fine Art Merit Awards:*

Atlanta Woodcarvers Club, Tucker GA Merit Award.....Bhahti Johnston, *Cat*
Cornerstone Academy of Art & Design Merit Award.....Jonathan Copeland, *Bricks At Rest*
Cornerstone Academy of Art & Design Merit Award.....Donna McLoughlin, *3 Of A Pear*
Doug Cross Walking Stick Memorial Merit Award.....Lamar Holland, *Dragon Walking Stick*
Ernie Mills Best Duck Decoy Merit Award.....Doug Lane, *Green Wing Teal*
Frito-Lay, Inc. Merit Award.....Ginger Luke, *Deep Blue*
In Memory of Alexia Benton Merit Award.....Warren Griffin, *Tempo Di Minuetto*
In Memory of Doug Cross Merit Award.....Farrell Bass, *Shore Bird*
In Memory of Doug Cross Merit Award.....Sally Thompson, *Red Head Drake*
In Memory of Doug McKittrick Merit Award.....Carmen Sanders, *Sunflower & Butterfly Small*
In Memory of Frank W. (Bill) Jaros Merit Award.....Dana Thompson, *Udderly Curious*
In Memory of Norman Smith Merit Award.....Sally Thompson, *Brown Thrasher*
In Memory of Jim & Pat Madison Merit Award.....Joshua Hatfield, *Postal Truck*
In Memory of Jim & Pat Madison Merit Award.....Peggy Maine, *Glass On Glass*
In Memory of Jim & Pat Madison Merit Award.....Phyllis Runyon, *The Girl Takes First*
In Memory of Jim & Pat Madison Merit Award.....Yuriy Totskiy, *Portrait Of Bob Poydasheff*
In Memory of Jim & Pat Madison Merit Award.....Bronwyn Young, *Hidden Bliss*
In Memory of Pennie Sunderman Merit Award.....Audrey Crumbley, *Cornucopia Road*
Joey & Melanie Handy Merit Award.....Claire Adams, Liminality
Joy Madden Raynor Fired Clay Memorial Merit Award.....Raeda Anderson, *Underneath It All*
Larry & Edna Garrett Merit Award.....Yuriy Totskiy, *Portrait Of Bob Poydasheff*
Paul & Jill Harman Merit Award.....Robert Smith, *Drake Wood Duck*
Porcelain Art Guild, Leona Clement Merit Award.....Valerie Huckaby, *Be Strong Cat*
Ron Dawes Merit Award.....Marcia Manning, *Eve In The Garden*
Susan Giles Merit Award.....Susan Verrochi, Three Riders
The Painted Door Art Gallery Merit Award.....Jorah Mitchell, *Lightfall*
Wednesday Art Group Merit Award.....Susan Verrochi, *Shadows On The Wall*
Wednesday Art Group Merit Award.....Susan Arrington, *Majestic*

**In honor of America's 250th anniversary:**

***Stars, Stripes & American Pride: Most Patriotic Handmade Entry***

Enter your most patriotic creation in any medium.
No entry fee required.
Most Patriotic Entry to be determined by People's Choice vote.
Details in Special Contest posting.

## 2026 Fine Art Awards Juror

**David Robert Howell** began drawing at the age of two. Art quickly became a lifelong passion and habit. His earliest inspirations included superheroes, dinosaurs, and Japanese science fiction films, with his very first sketch being a stegosaurus stick figure. One of his earliest artistic influences was Mexican-American artist and MAD Magazine contributor Sergio Aragonés, from whom the young artist learned the fundamentals of drawing the human form.

Howell received no formal art education until seventh grade. While attending Sandburg Junior High School in Elmhurst, he designed and illustrated covers for the school newspaper. He later attended York Community High School, where he studied cartooning, sculpture, painting, and art history. During this time, his history and social studies courses also became significant sources of inspiration, leading his artwork to take on increasingly political themes.

After graduating in 1990, Howell continued his formal art education at Elmhurst University (then Elmhurst College). During his studies, he was hired on several occasions by the college for freelance graphic design work and sold one of his oil paintings, Ayatollah, to the institution. The painting remains on display in the university library. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1994.

In 1997, Howell moved to San Francisco to attend the Academy of Art University (then Academy of Art College), where he studied both traditional and computer animation, as well as storyboarding. During his time in California, he produced a short animated feature that earned third prize at Brainwash Movie Festival. He completed his Master of Fine Arts in 2004.

In 2006, Howell and his wife relocated to Savannah, where he attended Armstrong Atlantic State University to earn his credential in art education. While studying, he worked part-time for Piggly Wiggly, designing and painting promotional posters for weekly sales. He also contributed regularly to the Atlantic Free Press, an online editorial publication. In 2011, he completed and published his first graphic novel, Bomb-A-Thon Or: Fear is Money, available through Lulu.

In 2013, Howell joined Claflin University as a part-time professor, where he continues to teach Art Appreciation. He also served for one semester as an adjunct professor at University of South Carolina Beaufort, teaching art history and design methods to non-art majors.

During the summers of 2017 and 2018, Howell taught a series of workshops at the The Studio School, instructing pre-high school students in foundational art techniques.

In 2021, he wrote and illustrated a textbook based on his Art Appreciation curriculum, published by Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. The third edition of Art Appreciation was completed in 2025.

In 2024, Howell joined South Carolina State University as an adjunct professor, where he currently teaches Printmaking and Drawing Fundamentals.

In April 2025, he contributed two illustrations to Portraits of POTUS Part 2 by Michael Moore.

Professor Howell currently resides in Savannah, Georgia, with his wife and their cat. He commutes four days a week to Orangeburg, South Carolina, where he continues to teach at both Claflin University and South Carolina State University. In addition to his teaching career, he remains active as a writer and illustrator in both professional and personal pursuits.