

# 2026 GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR FINE ARTS PATRON AWARDS

The Georgia National Fair Fine Arts Patron Awards Program offers three opportunities for artists and patrons to support the arts at the fair: Artists for Art, Fine Arts Merit Awards, and Fine Arts Purchase Awards.

Artists for Art Awards are contributions made by artists in support of fellow artists. In 2025, a total of \$500 was donated, allowing for the presentation of five \$100 merit awards to Georgia artists. Contributors may pledge any amount, with a minimum donation of \$40. Donors will be recognized in a special section of the 2026 Fine Arts Brochure, which will be available on our website. Artists for Art Merit Award ribbons will be placed by the Fine Arts Department.

The Fine Arts Merit Awards Program provides patrons the opportunity to recognize artwork they believe worthy of distinction, even if it does not receive a ribbon through official judging. Patrons pledge a specified amount, which is awarded directly to the artist; however, the artist retains ownership of the artwork. The minimum pledge for a Merit Award is \$50. Patrons may place their award ribbons during the Preview Reception or request assistance from the Fine Arts Department if unable to attend.

The Fine Arts Purchase Awards Program benefits both patrons and artists. Patrons are invited to preview the exhibit prior to the fair's opening and may purchase artwork, often at a price lower than that offered to the general public. This program also provides valuable financial support and encouragement to participating artists. A minimum commitment of \$50 is required, and all pledges are considered firm.

If a patron's pledged amount exceeds the purchase price of a selected piece, the remaining balance may be donated to the artist or applied toward the purchase of an additional piece by the same artist. For example, a patron who commits \$150 may purchase two pieces priced at \$90 and \$80 by contributing an additional \$20, or purchase one of the two pieces for their pledge amount of \$150.

Pledges may not be divided between multiple artists. If a patron makes more than one pledge, those amounts may not be combined toward a single purchase. If a patron makes multiple purchases, they must designate which artist is to receive their ribbon and original pledged amount. Once the original pledge is fulfilled, patrons may purchase additional artwork at the listed price or contact the artist to discuss pricing. Patrons may always pay more than the listed price, but not less. Any checks should be made directly to the artist at the time of purchase.

The Patron Preview and Selection Reception will be held on Tuesday evening prior to the opening of the fair. During this event, patrons will place their award ribbons and receive any complimentary admission passes. If you are unable to attend, you are encouraged to send a representative to make your selection. It is preferred that all Patron Award ribbons be placed prior to the fair's opening.

For more information about the Artists for Art, Fine Arts Merit, or Fine Arts Purchase Awards programs, please contact the Georgia Living Department at [contests@gnfa.com](mailto:contests@gnfa.com) or 478-988-6555. Printable forms are also available under the "Information" section of the Home Arts and Fine Arts page on our website.

**The deadline to participate in the 2026 Fine Arts Patron Awards Program is April 30, 2026. Patrons who join after this date will still be recognized in printed materials but may receive a generic Fine Arts Merit or Purchase Award rosette.**

