

# PROFESSIONAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

**Location:** Talbott East & West Buildings

**Manager:** Cindy Moore Ph: 620-727-3204

Changes have been made to the General and Department Rules. Please read all the rules.

Online Entries Open on May 1

Entry Deadline is August 1

Late Entry: August 2 (12:01 a.m.) to August 15 (11:59 p.m.) - \$5.00 late fee, per exhibitor.

August 16 (12:01 a.m.) to August 19 (11:59 p.m.) - \$25.00 late fee, per exhibitor.

No entries will be accepted after August 19 (11:59 p.m.)

If you do not receive a confirmation email following registration and entry, please contact the Fair office at 620-669-3621

Exhibitor Social Security Numbers ARE REQUIRED. The Kansas State Fair is a State-entity, and the State of Kansas requires the correct SSN for verification of premium payments.

Receiving / Drop off

- Monday September 7, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Tuesday September 8, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Wednesday September, 8 a.m.- Noon

Release / Pick up

- Sunday September 20, 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.
- Monday September 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

## DEFINITIONS:

**ORIGINAL (artwork)-** a unique or one-off piece of art – usually the first version – created directly by an artist's hand or a tool controlled by their hand(s). A small, hand-pulled, numbered series of prints (lithographs, screenprints, woodcuts, etching, engraving, and lithographs) are considered original art.

- Giclee, inkjets, or other, machine-printed items are not considered original art except when used to print an artist's original digital creation onto paper or other substrates.
- No seminar pieces may be entered, unless otherwise noted. (A seminar art piece is defined as a piece of art created in an instructional setting with attendees all creating the same or similar pieces of artwork to learn a technique, style, or lesson.)
- Artwork must have been completed within the last two years.
- Artwork may not have been previously exhibited at the Kansas State Fair.
- Artists must disclose if art or artwork was created using an Artificial Intelligence Generator

**PROFESSIONAL** - You are considered a professional artist if most of the following applies to you:

- You have a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Masters, or Doctorate in Art; or
- A significant portion of your annual income is earned through the sale of your artwork; or
- You have won awards for your art in juried national or regional exhibitions; or KSF
- You currently, or in the past, have had exhibitions within a museum environment; or
- You are a visual art instructor; or
- You currently, or in the recent past, have had commercial gallery representation.

**PAINTING** - Applying paint, pigment, color, or other medium to a solid surface. The medium is commonly applied to the base with a brush, but other implements, such as knives, sponges, and airbrushes, can be used.

**DRAWING/PRINTMAKING** - (Drawing) Using instruments to mark paper or other two-dimensional surfaces. Instruments include graphite, inked brushes, colored pencils, crayons, charcoal, chalk, pastels, erasers, markers, styluses, and metals (such as silverpoint). (Printmaking) The process of creating artwork by printing, most commonly on paper, but also on fabric, wood, metal, and other surfaces. Printmaking processes have the capacity to produce identical multiples of the same work and are created using a hand-processed technique.

**Sculpture (3D)/Ceramics/Fiber Art** - (Sculpture) Three-dimensional art. Sculpture processes include but are not limited to carving, assembling, welding, modeling, molding, and casting. (Ceramics) Various hard, brittle, heat-resistant, and corrosion-resistant materials are made by shaping and then firing an inorganic, nonmetallic material, such as clay, at a high temperature. Common examples are earthenware, porcelain, and brick. (Fiber Art) Fine art whose material consists mainly of natural or synthetic fiber and other components such as fabric or yarn. It focuses on the materials and on the manual labor on the part of the artist as part of the works' significance and prioritizes aesthetic value over utility.

**Photography** - The art, application, and practice of creating durable images by recording light, either electronically by means of an image sensor or chemically by means of light-sensitive material such as photographic film. For this competition, photographs taken with a digital camera are acceptable, but significant digital modification is not allowed in this category. Acceptable modifications include but are not limited to cropping, resizing, and slight (20% or less) color correction.

**AI - Digital Arts/Digitally Manipulated Photography** - (*Digital Arts*) Artistic practice that uses digital technology as part of the creative or presentation process. (*Digitally Enhanced Photography*) Digitally editing a photograph no more than 20%. Some examples of digitally manipulated photography are: using digital filters, manipulating color, saturation, tone, or vibrance no more than 20% or in a manner that is not the natural or original color, pixelation, any photoshopping beyond basic edits (cropping, resizing, 20% or less color correction), erasure of elements in photograph, and recombination of images, excluding art created using an Artificial Intelligence Generator. (*AI Generated Photography*) refers to a form of photography that utilizes Artificial Intelligence software to either generate new images or enhance images that mimic real photography. All photography must be your own work. Copy rights are to be followed. Any photos using AI generated software or digitally enhanced over the 20% allowance must be entered in the Fine Arts Department - Youth Division 431, Class 6, Open Division 432, Class 11 or the Professional Arts Department Division 801, Class 11.

**Mixed Media** - Artwork in which more than one differing medium or material has been employed. Assemblages, collages, and certain sculptures are three common examples.

**Jewelry/Metalsmithing** - (Jewelry) Decorative items worn for personal adornment, such as brooches, rings, necklaces, earrings, pendants, bracelets, and cufflinks. Jewelry may be attached to the body or the clothes. Jewelry often contains precious metals in combination with gemstones or other materials such as shells. (Metalsmithing) The process of creating jewelry through the manipulation of various metals. Manipulations include forming and shaping, sawing, doming, fold-forming, drilling, soldering, texturing, stamping, and more.

#### GENERAL AND DEPARTMENTAL RULES

1. **DEADLINE DATES:** All exhibitors are required to submit their entries online by the deadline date of **August 1, 2026**. Assistance for online entries is available during regular business hours only. (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) by calling the competitive office at 620-669-3621.

2. REQUIRED EXHIBITOR FEES: ALL exhibitors are required to pay a \$1.00 processing fee per person as well as a \$1.00 per item entry fee. Exhibitor Social Security Numbers ARE REQUIRED. The KSF is a State-entity, and the State of Kansas requires the SSN for verification of premium payments.
3. ENTRIES/LATE ENTRIES: Entries will be accepted online at [www.kansasstatefair.gov](http://www.kansasstatefair.gov), beginning May 1, 2026. Entries will be accepted after August 1, 2026, in accordance with the following schedule: **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER AUGUST 19, 2026.**
  - August 2 (12:01 a.m.) to August 15 (11:59 p.m.) - \$5.00 late fee, per exhibitor.
  - August 16 (12:01 a.m.) to August 19 (11:59 p.m.) - \$25.00 late fee, per exhibitor.
  - No entries will be accepted after August 19 (11:59 p.m.)
4. An exhibitor may enter one (1) item per class, unless noted differently.
5. Exhibitors have up to 15 minutes to arrange, display or touch-up their exhibit upon arrival, prior to checking in.
6. Exhibits cannot be prepared or assembled on-site, unless it is a “real time” contest, and it is stated in the rules. Department Managers or Competitive Exhibit Coordinator have the right to disqualify an entry or exhibit if anyone, other than the exhibitor, has prepared it. **ALL WORK MUST BE THAT OF THE EXHIBITOR.**
7. Displayed exhibits may be limited – KSF reserves the right to only display what room allows. Any item not being displayed will have designated pick-up times. First place through third place is guaranteed to be shown. Every effort will be made to display ALL items entered in the fair.
8. Any item that does not meet Kansas State Fair requirements will not be accepted. If an item is accepted due to oversight, it may later be disqualified and/or not judged or displayed.
9. During check-in, a Kansas State Fair staff member may question if you entered your item properly, if it is obvious the item may not meet the class requirements. If an exhibitor is not sure if the item(s) are entered properly, they must ask a staff member for assistance **BEFORE** the item is checked in. This process can only be done during receiving hours and at the request of the exhibitor. If you question the class entered, and the Department Manager can justify the error, it may be moved to the proper class. Once an item has been checked in, **IT CANNOT BE MOVED**, without the prior approval of the Competitive Exhibit Coordinator. Check-in finalizes your entry. Kansas State Fair does not allow any item substitutions. If an item is entered into an incorrect category, it may be disqualified by a judge.
10. Entries will not be entered or judged in “Any Other Items” or “Not Specified” class if another class for that item is available.
11. All exhibits must have been created, grown, or harvested by the exhibitor during the season of current year unless otherwise stated. All creative items must have been completed since the 2025 Kansas State Fair (Since September 20, 2025).
12. If a “real-time” contest has fewer than two entered contestants, the contest may be changed to allow walk-up entries, with the approval of the KSF Competitive Exhibit Coordinator and sponsor (if the Division is sponsored).
13. After arrangements of exhibits for prizes, no change will be allowed except for authority from KSF Competitive Exhibit Coordinator.
14. Our primary audience consists of family and youth. We reserve the right to reject any entry that may be considered
15. A brief description of your item when entering online (as to color, size or pattern, brand) is required.
16. For the protection of the exhibitor, claim stubs are required at the time of release for items. If you do not have a claim stub, items **will not** be released to anyone other than the exhibitor with proper ID.
17. Each article in a collection or plural exhibit must show the exhibitor’s name and class of competition.
18. All exhibits will receive the best care and protection in their surroundings. The exhibits are subject to owner’s risk and in no event will the Kansas State Fair, KSF staff, or volunteers be responsible for any damage which may occur. Delicately constructed items requiring more than normal careful handling should not be submitted. All exhibits will be displayed at the discretion of the KSF Staff.
19. The Kansas State Fair reserves the right to cancel any class or place if the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition or an award is not merited.
20. Participants will not have access to their items once they have been received by the Kansas State Fair staff.
21. Release/Pick-up dates will be listed in the department handbooks. Any Exhibitor who does not claim their exhibit during the listed times will be required to make an appointment with the Competitive Exhibits Coordinator for release of their exhibit.

Perishable items (food) and plants will be discarded and/or donated immediately following the Fair. Non-perishable items not claimed by October 15, of the current year, will be discarded.

22. **All** Division Champions and Reserve Champions will receive a Rosette.
23. The Kansas State Fair reserves the right to cancel, eliminate, or change the published premium amounts due to lack of sponsorship.
24. If, at the Judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placement, the Judge shall give no award under any circumstances. The rule applies whether there are one or more exhibits in the class. If a tie occurs in any division or class, a judge will determine the winner.
25. When attending the Kansas State Fair, you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By entering the Fairgrounds, you consent to such recording media and its release to be used for news, telecasts, web casts, promotional purposes, advertising, social media, and websites. You further waive all rights you may have to any claims in connection with publication of these materials, regardless of the purpose or sponsoring of such publication.

#### **Department Rules:**

1. Professionals are individuals who are teachers of art or who make a practice of selling their work.
2. Only Kansas artists at least 18 years of age are eligible.
3. Any work produced in the last (1) year will be accepted. It must be original in composition and rendering. Observe copyright laws. The individual submitting the work must be the artist.
4. Articles done in a workshop or class are not eligible.

#### **SHIPPING:**

##### SHIPPED ITEMS

Shipping charges on all exhibits must be prepaid. Packages should be addressed to: Kansas State Fair, ATTN: (*Fine Arts, Clothing, etc*) Department, 2000 N. Poplar, Hutchinson, KS 67502 and *must* arrive by August 23, 2026. A copy of your entry receipt should also be included in your package with your pre-registered items. Please make sure all items are labeled in a manner that can be removed before judging (a note attached by a rubber band, twist tie, masking tape, safety pin, etc.)

##### ITEMS TO BE RETURNED

Nonperishable item(s) will be shipped back at the exhibitor's request and expense after the fair and in its original packaging. **A Prepaid shipping label must be included with the original packaging, along with any special instructions.** Additional insurance must be included on the Prepaid Shipping Label. KSF will not add additional value to any shipment.

*Note: A prepaid shipping label may be purchased on [usps.com](https://usps.com). Attach the label to an email and send to [melissa.zimmerman@ks.gov](mailto:melissa.zimmerman@ks.gov)*

## **Division 800 – Paintings, Drawings, Hand Pulled Prints**

- \$25 fee per entry will be charged for participation in this division.
- The judge is qualified to judge only two-dimensional works of traditional media. No fiber arts, three-dimensional work, digital art, or reproduction prints will be accepted. Diptychs and triptychs will not be eligible unless framed within one frame that meets size requirements.
  - Except for works which are specifically intended to be shown un-stretched or unframed, the entry must be substantially framed. Works in fragile media, such as watercolor or pastel, should be framed under glass or Plexiglas. Screw eyes and wire must be on the entry. Work must not measure more than 50" in any one direction, including frame. Painting must be completely dry; no wet or semi-wet paintings will be accepted.

#### **Premiums awarded for this division are as follows:**

- Kansas State Fair Grand Award - \$500.00

- Kansas State Fair Award of Excellence - \$400.00
- Barbara Peirce Memorial Award (Friends and Family) - \$300.00  
(Professional Arts Department Manager 1979-1993)
- Hutchinson Art Center Special Award - \$200.00
- Pat Potucek Memorial Award - \$100
- Sue Franco Memorial Award - \$500
- Award of Merit (6 awards available) -\$50.00 ea. Any Medium: Paintings, Drawings, and Hand Pulled Prints



### Class

1. Any Medium: Paintings, Drawings, and Hand Pulled Prints

## Division 801 – Professional Photography

**Premiums awarded for this division are:**

**1st - \$30, 2nd - \$25 and 3rd place a ribbon.**

**Division Champion photo will receive \$80 and a rosette**

**Reserve Champion will receive \$60 and a rosette.**

- \$10 fee per entry will be charged for participation in this division.
- Photography should be 4" x 6" or larger, not to exceed 16" x 24", including mat, **no frames**. Please have mats no larger than 2". Total thickness of entry not to exceed 1/4 inch, wrapped on wood frames will not be accepted. No mixed media allowed. Protective plastic covers will be removed for display.
- A Photo-journalism print is a print that tells a story that could be used in a newspaper or magazine article. A World in Motion Pictorial print is any print that shows action or movement.
- If photographer's name appears on the photograph, please cover the name for judging purposes.

### **Class**

1. Figure or Portrait; human or animal; black and white
2. Figure or Portrait; human or animal; color
3. Nature Print
4. Drone Photography - Color
5. Kansas State Fair - color
6. Pictorial Print; black and white
7. Pictorial Print; color
8. Pictorial Print; World in Motion; color
9. Unclassified / Abstract / Special Effects; color
10. Unclassified / Abstract / Special Effects; black and white
11. AI -Digital Arts/Digitally-Manipulated Photography – Any Subject - COLOR

## Division 802 – Professional Sculptures

**Premiums awarded for this division are:**

**1st - \$50, 2nd - \$30 and 3rd place a ribbon.**

**\*Exception - Class #03 awards 1st - \$65 and 2nd - \$35.**

**Division Champion will receive \$55 and a rosette.  
Reserve Champion will receive \$35 and a rosette.**

- \$10 fee per entry will be charged for participation in this division.
- The bottoms of all pieces must be finished. Felt bottoms will be accepted but will be removed for judging. Stoppers, lids, etc., must be taped prior to entry.
- No loose pieces or plants will be accepted.
- Any item to be displayed standing or hanging will only be accepted with suitable equipment for display.
- Exhibitor is responsible for unloading and placing large exhibits.

**Class**

1. Bronze
2. Clay - free form hand/molded
3. Jewelry
4. Mixed Medium
5. Other Metals
6. Unclassified Miscellaneous (Bone, Glass, Resin, Stone)
7. Wood

## **Division 803 – Plein Aire Art – Artistry at the Fair**

**Friday, Sept. 11 from noon to 9 p.m.**

**Saturday, Sept. 12 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**\*\* Plein Aire Art (Artistry at the Fair) is open to all professional and amateur artists 18 years of age and older. Paintings, drawings, sculptures, collages**

**Premiums awarded for this division are 1<sup>st</sup> - \$250, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$150 and 4<sup>th</sup> \$100. One Merit Award \$25.00 in memory of Pat Patucek.**

- \$10 fee per entry will be charged for participation in this division.

**Class**

1. Plein Aire Art - Artistry at the Fair

**Thank You to our Sponsors -**

- Family & Friends of Barbara Peirce - Hutchinson
- Hutchinson Art Association – Hutchinson
- Family of Sue Franko – Hutchinson
- Family of Pat Potucek - Hutchinson

**If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact the department Supervisor or phone our Competitive Exhibits Dept. 620-669-3621**