

# Arts & Crafts Competition Handbook

Fine Art, Crafts, Home & Holiday Crafts, Photography and Graphic Arts

# Adult/Youth

For more information, contact  
Lorie Stinson, CFE  
Exhibits and Special Events Manager  
Phone: (561) 790-5245  
Email: [lorie@southfloridafair.com](mailto:lorie@southfloridafair.com)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Online or Paper Entry Form deadline**

Friday, Dec. 26, 2025

**Deliver items to Building 3 at the South Florida Fair (see Page 5)**

### Items Exhibited

Jan. 16 - Feb. 1, 2026

### Entry Pick Up

Monday, Feb. 2, 2026

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Competition Overview

**Entry Fee:** FREE

**General Rules** – Page 4

**How to Enter Online** – Page 5

**Paper Entry Form** - Page 5

**Exhibitors are encouraged to read this handbook in its entirety.**

## Eligibility

The Arts & Crafts Divisions are open to all Florida residents ages 18+ and up and youth in the first grade and up.



# Entry Rules

## NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Due to space limitations, only eight (8) items per person will be accepted for judging. All eight (8) can be entered in the same class or may be entered in different classes.

## SIZE AND PREPARATION GUIDELINES

- All artwork must be labeled with the exhibitor's name on the back or bottom of the piece.
- Two-dimensional artwork cannot exceed 36 inches in any direction, including the frame.
- All two-dimensional artwork must be received installation ready. Most artwork must be framed unless painted on a gallery wrapped canvas. Artwork should be suitably wired using strong screw eyes and wire. *See "Preparing Entry for Exhibition" on Page 6.*
- Three-dimensional artwork cannot exceed 24 inches in any direction, unless approved by Exhibits and Special Events Manager.
- All three-dimensional artwork must be received installation ready. Provide a base if necessary, for structural support.
- All artwork must be dry when submitted for exhibition.

## GENERAL ENTRY RULES

- A decorative artist can use a design created by another artist, however the piece must be entirely your own work.
- Entries previously exhibited in the South Florida Fair may not be submitted for competition.
- Exhibited work must be completed within the last five (5) years.
- Entries must have been prepared/made/processed by the exhibitor in whose name they are entered.
- In keeping with the South Florida Fair's family orientation, nudes or items of an offensive, controversial, or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.

## Judging and Awards

The Fair ensures the judges are knowledgeable in the division in which they are judging and will be impartial. Judges reserve the right to reassign entries to a more appropriate division or class. Judging will be done using a scorecard to assist in keeping decisions as objective as possible. *The decision of the judge(s) is final.*

If, at the judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placing, the judge shall give no award under any circumstance. This rule applies whether there is one or more exhibits in the class.

## Judging Criteria

Originality – 40 percent

Execution – 40 percent

General Appearance – 10 percent

Degree of Difficulty – 10 percent

## Awards Information

### Division: Arts & Crafts

**First Place** – South Florida Fair Ribbon

**Second Place** – South Florida Fair Ribbon

**Third Place** – South Florida Fair Ribbon

**Best of Show** – South Florida Fair Ribbon and Premium Payment

*Best of Show Awards will be chosen from the first-place winners in each Division.*

# **Divisions and Classes**

## **Division #1 - Graphic Art**

### **Class Description**

1. Stationary System
2. Computer Graphics
3. Screen Printing

## **Division #2 - Photography**

### **Class Description**

1. People (portraits and figures)
2. Scene (land, sea, sky and cityscapes)
3. Still Life and Things
4. Flowers, Plants and Trees
5. Animals (wildlife, pets and farm animals)
6. Abstract, surreal and non-representational
7. Digital/photographic manipulation and compositing
8. Alternative process
9. Other / not listed

## **Division #3 - Holiday and Seasonal Crafts**

### **Class Description**

1. Any holiday or seasonal wreaths
2. Ornament
3. Craft
4. Seasonal craft
5. Any holiday or seasonal decorative art

## **Division #4 - Home Crafts**

### **Class Description**

1. Home craft
2. Home décor and accessories
3. Garden art
4. Recycled art

## **Division #5 - Ceramics**

### **Class Description**

1. Functional ceramics
2. Non-functional ceramics
3. Commercially made molds (glazed or painted bisque ware)

## **Division #6 - Glass and Mosaics**

### **Class Description**

1. Stained glass
2. Fused glass
3. Mosaic
4. Other / not listed

## **Division #7 - Jewellery**

### **Class Description**

1. Beadwork
2. Metal work
3. Jewelry made from non-traditional materials
4. Other / not listed

## **Division #8 - Leatherwork**

### **Class Description**

1. Leatherworks

# General Rules

## Disclaimer

All competitive exhibits are entered at the exhibitor's risk. The South Florida Fair does not insure and is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of entries, even if the loss, damage, or theft occurs as the result of the handling of the exhibit by staff, volunteers, contractors and/or visitors. If the exhibitor desires insurance coverage, this coverage should be secured from a personal insurance agent prior to entry and the policy written to cover the period of exhibition and transportation. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits. Unauthorized persons are not permitted in the building after closing hours.

## Division/Class Cancellation

The South Florida Fair reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

## Entry Errors

South Florida Fair is not responsible for finding errors in entries. Exhibitors are responsible for all errors which were submitted online or on entry and summary forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his own error. The South Florida Fair shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post audits of Fair records. However, exhibitors with cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Exhibitors should inform the South Florida Fair immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, complete description of the entry and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than 90 days after receiving notice of disallowance.

## Premium Payments

Premium awards will be paid to the Best of Show. Best of Show awards will be chosen from the first-place winners in each Division. Amounts vary depending on Division.

## Substitution

Substitutions may be made in still exhibits only in the same division of the original entry class of the original exhibitor and may be made only if completed by the entry delivery date. Substitutions must be made at time of delivery check in. The South Florida Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer to the correct class any entry which is not a true representative of the division or class in which it is entered.

## Previously Entered Entry

Any entry that has been exhibited at a previous South Florida Fair is not eligible for entry in this year's South Florida Fair, excluding Horticulture and Creative Aquarium entries.

## Verification

Exhibitors wishing to verify that the South Florida Fair has received submitted entry forms must include a self-addressed/stamped envelope when submitting entry forms. Online submissions will receive a confirmation email.

## Responsibility

The South Florida Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times. All still exhibits or display elements remaining on the Fairgrounds after the designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before Feb. 28 of the current year.

## Removal of Entries

Exhibitors may not remove their entry from the South Florida Fair once it has been accepted. Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Handbook and shall not be removed from the Fairgrounds prior to the release date printed in the handbook, except (at the discretion of the South Florida Fair) in cases of evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the Fair.

## Design

The South Florida Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of the exhibits. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the Fair. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed. Once an entry has been received by the South Florida Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitor shall be permitted.

Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by South Florida Fair personnel. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary, bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display.

## How to Enter Online

Exhibitors are encouraged to enter online at [www.southfloridafair.com/TheCreationStation](http://www.southfloridafair.com/TheCreationStation).

- Review this Competition Handbook to see which division and class your entry is eligible to compete in. Follow the easy steps listed below to enter.
- To enter online, go to [www.southfloridafair.com/TheCreationStation](http://www.southfloridafair.com/TheCreationStation) and complete the form. Click the submit button and make sure you are brought to the thank you for registering page.
- Everyone must register as a new exhibitor each year.
- When registering, please verify all information is correct. Please pay special attention to capitalization, full names of cities/counties and use proper spelling (no abbreviations).

## Mailing Paper Entry Forms

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, Dec. 26, 2025.

*Failure to complete any portion of entry form may result in disqualification.*

### Mail Entry Form to:

The Creation Station, Crafts & Specialty Arts – Arts & Crafts (Adult/Youth)  
South Florida Fair  
P.O. Box 210367  
West Palm Beach, FL 33421-0367

## Delivery Entries

All entries must be delivered to the South Florida Fair on either:

Friday, Jan. 2 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 3 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Sunday, Jan. 4 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 5 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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### Deliver entries to:

South Florida Fair  
Building 3  
Attn: Lorie Stinson

*Enter Gate 10 off Fairgrounds Road.*

**Entries arriving at the Fairgrounds after delivery deadline may be disqualified.**

## Retrieving Entries

- See the calendar for pick up dates, times, and locations (Page 1).
- Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for special pick up appointment by emailing [lorie@southfloridafair.com](mailto:lorie@southfloridafair.com).
- All entries not claimed by Feb. 28 of the same year will be recycled, disposed, or donated.

# Preparing Entry for Exhibition

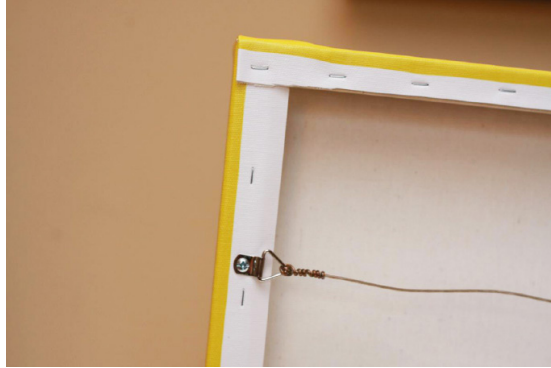
## Fine Art (2D)

**Artwork must be framed!**

**Gallery wrapped canvases do not need to be framed.**

- Framed entries can hold artwork that is matted.
- Framed items must be ready to hang using secure screw eyes and wire.
- Gallery wrapped canvases should be ready to hang using secure screw eyes and wire.
- All artwork must be labeled with the exhibitor's name on the back of the piece.

### Examples of wire hangers on frames and canvases



## Graphic Art

**Graphic Art entries are judged presentation as well as the project itself.**

- Outer dimensions of mat board or frame cannot exceed 24 inches in any direction.
- Stationary systems can be framed or mounted on mat board.
- Computer graphic entries can be framed or mounted on mat board.
- Screen printed items can arrive on a hanger or presented in a way that supports the project.
- All artwork must be labeled with the exhibitor's name on the back of the piece.

## Photographs

- Photographs must be printed on photo paper (gloss or matte), unless exhibiting in Alternative Process.
- All photographs must be matted in a standard single weight black or white mat board. NO Double Mats. The finished size of the mat board must be 11 inches x 14 inches (outer dimension).
- Print size(s) can be any size as long they can be matted to fit to the 11 inches x 14 inches mat. Odd size prints may need the mat window professionally cut to size.
- How the print gets attached to the mat is dependent on the type of pre-cut mat you purchase.
- Prints can also be attached to a board with a hinge mount; the method we recommend involve taping the print into place with folded hinges. Double stick tape can also be used to adhere the print to the backing board.
- The South Florida Fair will insert photographs in clear sleeves to further protect them during Fair. That is why no foam core should be used to back the print
- All artwork must be labeled with the exhibitor's name on the back of the piece.

## Sources for Mat Boards

Michaels and Hobby Lobby all have pre-cut photo mats. Redimat is an online resource that has many available sizes as well as custom mat cutting.

# Index

**2D Décor:** items like needlework, table linens, wall hanging, paper crafts, etc.

**3D Décor:** items like table centerpieces, dolls, toys, wood-crafted items, home accessories, etc.

**2D and 3D Mixed Media:** uses more than one medium.

**Alternative Capture Process:** uses a variety of non-traditional cameras to create images, such as Pinhole camera, Toy Camera, Polaroid, etc.

**Alternative Printing Process:** includes cyanotype, light printing, salt printing, lifts and transfers, platinum prints, infrared, etc.

**Alternative Process:** refers to any non-traditional or non-commercial photographic printing process.

**Beading Mixed Media:** variety of bead-working techniques to create one piece.

**Bead Strung:** individual piece or a set of jewelry that is made from various glass beads, crystals, semi-precious stones, wood, metal beads, found objects, etc. Can include lamp work beads and commercially purchased.

**Bead Weaving:** seed beads either on a loom or several off-loom stitches.

**Bisque ware:** unglazed clay that has undergone an initial, low temperature firing in a kiln.

**Black and White Photography:** monochrome photographs.

**Casting:** created using traditional techniques such as centrifugal, vacuum, cuttlebone.

**Computer Graphics:** original computer graphic image or drawing using computer software.

**Decorative Art:** diverse art form using a variety of techniques and mediums to decorate functional and non-functional surfaces. The designs can be original or copied patterns painted on a variety of surfaces from paper, wood items, canvas, clay pots, furniture, boxes, and many more. Mediums are anything from oil, acrylic, watercolor, colored pencils, alcohol inks, pastels, etc.

**Decorative Arts:** painting on a 3D surface, for example, a wooden box.

**Digital Art:** uses digital technology as an essential part of the creative or presentation process.

**Digital/Photographic Compositing:** image created from two or more source images combined into a single image. This includes multiple exposures and collage.

**Digital/Photographic Manipulation:** using darkroom or digital tools to manipulate an original image.

**Drawing:** includes graphite pencil, charcoal, color pencil, etc.

**Fabrication:** created by manipulating wires, sheet metal using traditional fabrication techniques such as bending, forging, sawing, soldering, etc. This class will include jewelry-related objects that are 50 percent or more fabricated metal made into finished jewelry.

**Functional Ceramics:** any ceramics piece that is not purely decorative and has some intended use. Typical examples include teapots, bowls, mugs, and vases, etc.

**Fused Glass:** the joining together of pieces of glass at high temperature, usually in a kiln.

**Garden Art:** includes Birdhouses, Planters and Containers or Yard Art Sculptures.

**Glass Mosaic:** traditional form of glass work where pieces of glass are used to embellish decorative art, structures, and furniture.

**Hand-Built:** various techniques for creating ceramic objects that do not involve the use of a potter's wheel. These methods include coiling, slab building, and pinch pots.

**Hand colored image:** refers to any method of manually adding color to a black and white photograph, generally either to heighten the realism of the photograph or for artistic purposes.

**Holiday:** any national, religious, or cultural observed day(s) of contemplation or celebration, or the events themselves. These include religious and non-religious holidays, federal holidays and cultural or special community celebrations. Also, included are Halloween, Mother's Day, etc.

**Home Crafts:** paper crafts, polymer clay, doll making, macramé, applique craft (includes beads, studs, and rhinestones) and beadwork (non-jewelry).

**Home Décor and Accessories:** wall-hangings, signs, or any item that decorates your living or work area. Includes flower arranging (dried or artificial), rugs (not traditional rug hooking), wreaths (non-holiday or seasonal), whimsical stitchery.

**Jewelry:** art made from non-traditional materials.

**Kiln:** *thermally insulated chamber, a type of oven, that produces temperatures sufficient to complete some process, such as hardening and drying of objects made from clay into pottery, tiles and bricks.*

**Lamp Working:** *type of glasswork where a torch or lamp is primarily used to melt the glass to create beads, buttons, components, etc. At least 50 percent of the piece of jewelry needs to contain lampwork components.*

**Metal Clay:** *crafting medium consisting of very small particles of metal such as silver, gold, bronze, or copper mixed with an organic binder and water for use in making jewelry, beads, and small sculptures.*

**Non-Functional Ceramics:** *created mainly for decorative use versus having a useful purpose.*

**Painting:** *includes acrylic and oil media.*

**Paper crafts:** *collection of art forms employing paper or card as the primary artistic medium for the creation of two or three-dimensional objects. Includes card making, scrapbooking, paper mache, paper clay, quilling, etc.*

**Pastel:** *includes soft and oil pastel.*

**Polymer Clay:** *type of hardening modeling clay based on the polymer polyvinyl chloride (PVC).*

**Practical Cases:** *any leather item used to store, cover, or carry an object, worn by man or animal.*

**Repurposed (Recycled) Art:** *items are transformed or modified to use for a purpose other than its originally intended use, for example, a coffeepot made into a birdhouse. Items should be made from at least 80 percent recycled materials.*

**Saddles and Tack:** *piece of equipment or accessory equipped on horses during their use as domesticated animals. Saddles, stirrups, bridles, halters, reins, harnesses, martingales, and breastplates are all forms of horse tack.*

**Scratch Art:** *uses a cardboard or wooden board that is coated with impermeable white clay and covered by a layer of ink that is scratched or scraped in patterns revealing the white surface below.*

**Seasonal Crafts:** *crafts and décor that are made to celebrate the seasonal changes throughout the year.*

**Set:** *group or ensemble of jewelry items that go together; for example, a ring, bracelet, necklace, and earrings of matching design.*

**Stained Glass:** *refers to colored glass as a material or art and architectural works created from it. Although it is traditionally made in flat panels and used as windows, the creations of modern stained glass artists also include three-dimensional structures and sculpture.*

**Stationery System:** *an original design of a company logo, business card and business letterhead displayed on a poster board or foam board. The logo must be included in the design of the business card and letterhead.*

**Table Art:** *any leather item used for decoration and NOT worn by man or animal.*

**Traditional Wearables:** *leather items worn by Florida Cowboys, Native Americans, soldiers and hunters for daily work or special occasions.*

**Water Media Painting:** *includes watercolor, inks, temperas, caseins, gouaches, etc.*

**Wheel Thrown:** *process of producing pottery by use of a rapidly rotating disk referred to as a potter's wheel.*

**Wire working:** *handcrafted jewelry composed mainly of wire, such as wire-wrapped stones or beads, woven and knitted wire and chain mail jewelry.*

# Arts and Crafts Entry Form

Adult (ages 18+)  Youth

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, Dec. 26, 2025.  
Failure to complete any portion of entry form may result in disqualification.

Please print legibly

Exhibitor's Name (First, Last)		If Youth wins prize money, who should the check be made payable to?	
Mailing Address		County	
City	State	Zip Code	
Phone		Email	

Exhibitors may enter up to eight (8) entries per division for judging.

	DIVISION#	CLASS#	TITLE OF ARTWORK, PHOTOGRAPH AND / OR DESCRIPTION OF CRAFT
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

*I hereby certify that I have read the South Florida Fair General Rules for The Creation Station, Crafts & Specialty Arts Program (Page 4) and the above item(s) is/are entered for exhibition strictly in accordance with these rules, by which I agree to be governed. I also agree that the South Florida Fair may use my name, likeness, or photograph (including, but not limited to photographs of my entry), in any manner relating to my participation in The Creation Station, Crafts & Specialty Arts Program, free of charge and without further notice or consultation.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of exhibitor Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/guardian (Youth ONLY) Print name of parent/guardian Date

**Mail Entry Form to:**  
The Creation Station, Crafts & Specialty Arts – Arts & Crafts (Adult/Youth)  
South Florida Fair  
P.O. Box 210367  
West Palm Beach, FL 33421-0367