

2024

**GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
IMPORTANT DATES
REGISTRATION BEGINS LATE SPRING
CHECK DEPARTMENTS FOR SPECIFIC
ENTRY AND RECEIVING DATES
THE BIG E FAIR: SEPTEMBER 13 – 29, 2024**

Email CreativeArts@TheBigE.com to request to be added to our email list.

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RULES & REGULATIONS

- BENEFITS OF COMPETING.** Eastern States Exposition is proud to showcase the amazing talent of our exhibitors. We provide the opportunity to win ribbons and premium monies and, in some departments, several donated awards. Exhibitors receive valuable comments from the judges to help them improve. Exhibiting is a wonderful way to share your talent and inspire others to try or continue with a project. In appreciation, each exhibitor receives two FREE tickets to attend the fair. Entry passes will be provided to the exhibitor upon receipt of the entered item at the New England Center or mailed upon the receipt of mailed entries.
- EXHIBITOR COMPLIANCE.** The rules and regulations for The Big E Creative Arts Department are the conditions under which all entries are accepted. Exhibitors are urged to study these rules carefully before making an application for entries. A signed entry serves as an agreement to comply with all rules and regulations contained within these guidelines and all other official Big E publications (including changes posted on our website). Incomplete (unsigned) entries will be returned with any accompanying payment. Please read the General Rules and Regulations printed within each department. Rules particular to a department will be printed at the beginning of the section. Any questions may be emailed to CreativeArts@TheBigE.com or telephone (413) 205-5015.
- ELIGIBILITY.** Each entry must be a recently completed work (within the past 3 years, unless noted otherwise in a department's rules) by the exhibitor, handmade and finished. It should look new in appearance, be neat, clean, and **not** entered in a previous Eastern States Exposition showcase. A set of items may be substituted as one entry. Identify all **kits** on entry form.
- In keeping with Eastern States' family orientation, items of an offensive, controversial, or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.**
- ENTRIES.** A separate entry form is required for each exhibitor. Entry forms are online at TheBigE.com/creativearts and may be downloaded for your convenience. *Please print legibly. Fill out as completely and as accurately as possible. Full name, mailing address and phone number to contact you during the day is important. See **Department Divisions & Entry Limits - # 12** under General Rules and Regulations for entry limits.* Faxed entries will be accepted and will be processed when a credit card number has been charged. Online entries are available for all departments. **Metered mail postmark will not be accepted as proof of deadline compliance.** Denoted required fields on the entry form must be completed or the entry form will be returned for completion.
- ENTRY FEE.** Please check departments for entry fees. No late entry forms are accepted. Checks are made payable to **Eastern States Exposition.**
- YOUTH ENTRIES.** Youth classes are for those 5-18 years of age as of January 1, 2024. Class C is for 13-18 years old, class D is for 5-12 years old. Youth are to check off the "youth" box on the entry form when submitting entries and the **DATE OF BIRTH** must be noted on the entry form.
- PREMIUM PAYMENT.** Eastern States Exposition will try to have checks available at time of release; occasionally, circumstances will not allow this. Checks will then be mailed in a timely fashion to the exhibitor.

Eastern States Exposition assumes no responsibility for premium checks once they are presented to the exhibitor. All checks must be cashed, and missing checks reported **prior** to December 31 of the year of entry. After January 1 of the following year, the show's books are closed, and protests are not valid.

9. **RELEASES.** All release documents will be issued by Eastern States Exposition management. Exhibitors who remove one or more entries without a release will forfeit all premiums won.
10. **LOSS OR DAMAGE.** Every reasonable precaution is taken by Eastern States Exposition in handling and exhibiting items, from the time we receive the exhibit until its release at the conclusion of The Big E. All exhibits will be under the direction of Eastern States Exposition Management, who will exercise every reasonable care in the protection of exhibits. In no case will Eastern States Exposition or Management be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to any entry; or loss, injury, or damage done by or arising from any entry exhibited by an exhibitor and shall indemnify Eastern States Exposition against legal or other proceedings in regard thereto. We advise and request that all artists carry homeowners/home renter's insurance to help insure any items of extreme value. Insurance while in transit is the responsibility of the artist.

Fair replacement value = material cost and hours labor x \$15 per hour x 3.

11. Consumption of food/beverages in the New England Center by exhibitors during drop off or pick up is not allowed.
12. **ENTRY LIMITS.** See individual Department and Divisions listings.

If you have any questions or need help filling out an entry form, please contact the Creative Arts office via email at CreativeArts@TheBigE.com or by telephone at (413) 205-5015.

13. **CLASSES.**

A = ADULT- Instructors/Professionals

- An instructor/professional is an individual who grosses more than \$2,000 per year from their craft, whether in sales or teaching.

B = ADULT Non-Instructors/Professional

C = YOUTH 13 to 18 years old

D = YOUTH 5 to 12 years old

- Youth are 5-18 years of age as of January 1, 2024.

14. **BEGINNER OR FIRST YEAR ENTRY?** If you have been practicing your craft for less than 2 years or if this is the first time you are entering a department at The Big E Creative Arts, please check off Beginner/First Year Entry on your entry submission.
15. **IS THIS FROM A KIT?** Please indicate on your entry submission if your item was made from a kit.
16. **COPYRIGHT PERMISSION**
All exhibitors are required to acknowledge with entry submission that they have obtained copyright permission when appropriate.

If you use the designs, photography, art, pattern, or crafted item created by another person as the source of your entry's design, you must obtain that person's written permission before displaying your item publicly and entering it for competition. Designs are considered intellectual property and are covered under the copyright laws of the United States. Copyright exists automatically in an original work of authorship once it is fixed in a tangible medium. Copyright law provides the owner of the copyright in a work with the exclusive rights to reproduce, adapt, publicly distribute, publicly perform, and publicly display the work, or authorize others to engage in these activities.

It is important to keep the specific written permission granted by the artist for your records and to be able to produce it when asked. This is protection for you and for the fair where the work is displayed.

I only used someone's design as inspiration for my work.

If someone else's work is identifiable in yours, you still need to obtain their permission. This applies whether you have copied, altered, or used only a portion of the design. This is considered derivative work, which is defined by the dictionary as "something that is based on another source" and "imitative of the work of another person."

I purchased my pattern, book, magazine or downloaded it.

Purchasing a pattern only gives you permission to make the item for your own use. To display it publicly, enter it into competition, or use it for commercial purposes, you must have the pattern designer's permission.

How do I obtain permission?

Check the inside cover pages of the book or magazine and the back of the pattern. You may find contact information or the artist's website information. If the information is not printed there, contact the publisher and/or search for the artist's website on the internet. Begin with a short letter or e-mail. Tell the artist that you have made your item from their pattern or artwork and attach a photo. Ask their permission to enter it for competition and to publish photographs with proper credit given.

I have permission, what do I need to do next?

There is space on the fair entry form to provide the artist's or designer's name, the title and publisher of the book, magazine, or pattern, the website where you found the artwork, or any other important information. **Please keep the specific written permission granted by the artist for your records and be able to produce it when asked.**

What if the artwork is in the public domain?

Credit the artist, state that the work is in the public domain, and provide the reason for your conclusion that the work is in the public domain.

What if I cannot locate the artist or the artist is deceased?

If you cannot locate the artist, or if the artist is deceased, contact the publisher, or in the case of a photograph or other artwork, contact the place or website where you found it. This could include art galleries, colleges, or museums. They may own the copyright or be able to put you in touch with the copyright owner.

This copyright information is to be used as only a guideline for your entry to The Big E Creative Arts. This is not to be used as legal reference.

17. **JUDGING CRITERIA.** General Appearance: cleanliness, colors, design, blocking and/or pressing, choice of fabric, fibers/threads & notions, choice of pattern, carrying thread showing through, appropriate closures and construction techniques/detail on garments. Workmanship: neatness, tension, pattern execution, gauge, absence of knots, piecing, pattern line "show through," missing stitches, accurate machine stitching. Finishing: framing, binding, fringe, blocking, seam/hem finishes, pillow foam, ground fabric thread parallel to finished edge.
18. **DECISIONS BY JUDGES.** Placings are based on the Danish system, a method of evaluating a participant's product, skill, or exhibit relative to the standards developed for that class or contest. The judges do not judge one person's work by comparing it to another's. All entries may not receive a placement. When and if possible, Certified Judges, individuals who have earned certification in their field of expertise, are used. A judge may also be an individual recognized as a professional in their field who may have taught their craft. Departments/Divisions/Classes may be combined or split at the discretion of Fair Management based on number of entries and quality of articles.

Judges' decisions are final. Decisions may not be disputed with the office staff or volunteers. Judges reserve the right to give awards at the deserving level. If work does not meet standards or quality, one or more awards may be omitted. Judges reserve the right to move entries to another category if they feel the entry is incorrectly listed. The judges may also add or augment a division within a category to enable them to properly evaluate the work.

19. Entries may be photographed and used for purposes including, but not limited to by show donors for promotional purposes, posted on social media, and used in other promotional materials. The photos become the property of Eastern States Exposition. The artist retains the rights to their work, but grants permission to Eastern States Exposition to use photographs of their entry as a permanent record of the exhibition and may be edited, adapted, published, and used for publicity, promotion and/or advertising at their discretion without compensation to the contestant. Photos will be properly credited.
20. **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.** An exhibitor wishing to protest or appeal any action, condition or circumstance occurring during the show which they consider detrimental to their interests, the interests of their fellow exhibitors or those of the Exposition may protest, complain or appeal to Management at any time prior to the release hour for their exhibits by plainly stating their appeal or protest in writing and attaching thereto a fee of \$100, such fee to be refunded upon settlement of the claim in their favor but forfeited if the protest is not sustained. Protests questioning the competency or fairness of judges will not be entertained or condoned. In all cases of complaint, protest, or appeal, the decision of the Executive Committee will be binding and final.
21. **MAIL-IN ENTRIES** (incoming and outgoing). Please read carefully to ensure proper handling of your entry. Shipped or mailed Creative Arts entries **must arrive between August 5 and August 23, 2024, and include the Shipping Form.**

Shipped entries should be labeled in the following manner:

**Name of Exhibitor
Eastern States Exposition/Creative Arts Department
1305 Memorial Ave.
West Springfield MA 01089**

**NOTE: Please notify us of your package shipping and expected arrival by calling (413)205-5015
Or Email: CreativeArts@TheBigE.com**

All Mail-In Entries must be sent with the SHIPPING FORM and Each Item must have an ENTRY ID LABEL attached.

Entries must be packed or crated securely with any glass stripped with masking tape to prevent breakage. No packing peanuts are to be used.

If your entry is to be returned by mail, please include the following:

- Sufficient packaging material
- Envelope with the following items:
 - Prepaid postage, including any desired shipping insurance.
 - 3 ½" x 5" or 4" x 6" card to be used as the return mailing label which has your address clearly written on.

Eastern States Exposition will not pay for return postage or insurance. Entries will be reshipped in the same container in which they were received. Be sure to include enough packing material, as Eastern States Exposition does not add additional materials for returns.

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A photo of your entries should be included with the packing sheet to ensure proper identification for return shipping.

Entries will not be shipped to Post Office boxes – street addresses must be provided.

All entries will remain for exhibit use during The Big E.

22. **RECEIVING DAYS (for entries not being mailed).** Please check the individual department for receiving dates. If there is a problem with the receiving dates and times for your department, please contact our office at (413) 205-5015 or email CreativeArts@TheBigE.com before your receiving date.
Identification labels: These may be obtained from the website (www.thebige.com/creativearts). Labels should be adhered to each exhibit for identification purposes. Feel free to photocopy. Attaching the identification labels prior to arriving on receiving day will benefit you and other exhibitors with a quicker check-in.
23. **PICK UP OF ENTRIES. ALL ENTRIES MAY BE PICKED UP ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 BETWEEN 12PM AND 7PM OR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 BETWEEN 8AM AND 1PM IN THE NEW ENGLAND CENTER. No entries will be released before Monday, SEPTEMBER 30.** You must bring your exhibitor's claim ticket with you (one claim ticket per exhibit). Claim tickets are issued at time of drop-off. Claim tickets for those who mail in their entries are held by the Creative Arts office. Return mailing of entries will begin during the week of September 30. After November 1, all unclaimed items become the property of Eastern States Exposition and will be disposed of as deemed necessary.
24. **JUDGING DAYS. CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC – Open to volunteers and staff only. See individual departments for judging dates.**
25. **SET UP DAYS. CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC – Open to volunteers and staff only. Set up begins after department judging is completed up to the day prior to The Big E opening day.**
26. **AWARD RESULTS.** Every effort will be made to post the results on the website, TheBigE.com, and Facebook, www.facebook.com/bigecreativearts as soon as possible. Due to increased entries, it may take several days to process the results. Results will not be given over the phone. Calling the New England Center office for results will only slow down the process. **Please be patient** as the results are manually entered into the computer. These results are initially considered **unofficial and subject to change**. Official results are posted after reviewing for inaccuracies.

CREATIVE ARTS AWARDS: Cash prizes, ribbons, and special awards may be presented by Eastern States Exposition and its donors in each separate class (Instructor/Professional, Non-Professional, and Youth) in all listed Departments and Divisions. See individual departments for awards offered. Taxes are the responsibility of the winner.

Blue: Premium monies & Blue Ribbon

Red: Premium monies & Red Ribbon

White: Premium monies & White Ribbon

Honorable Mention: Yellow Ribbon

Youth Entries: Green Ribbon

(Youth entries qualify for Blue, Red, White ribbons & premium monies & HM ribbon)

In most departments, we use a Danish system of judging. Entries are evaluated and awarded ribbons based on the following criteria:

- **BLUE (excellent):** The exhibit met high standards, an excellent rating. A blue is given to those who most nearly meet the highest standards established for the particular class or level of performance. Blue does



not indicate perfection or superiority but indicates a high degree of achievement toward the elements in the standards.

- **RED** (very good): Meets minimum standards, very good work. These entries meet minimum standards in relation to the expected achievement. Either the general level of accomplishment is less than excellent or enough shortcomings are found to cause the placing to drop from excellent to very good.
- **WHITE** (good): Meets standards well enough to be shown but is only good quality. The white grouping contains entries found lacking and rate only a good, acceptable, or satisfactory rating for the standards established.
- **HONORABLE MENTION** (Yellow) (fair): Meets standards well enough to be shown but is only fair quality. The yellow grouping contains entries found lacking and rate only a fair, acceptable, or satisfactory rating for the standards established.
- **NO RIBBON**: In Danish, no ribbon may be given if exhibits or individuals who, for one reason or another, fail to produce that level of achievement which can be reasonably expected in relation to the specific class or performance in which they are entered.

A **Best of Department** – Adult and Youth – rosette *may* be presented in each department. The Best of Department Award is at the discretion of the judges. Judges may choose not to award a Best of Department within their judged department. Please refer to judging criteria under general entry rules. Best of Department winners receive additional premium monies.

Best of Show may be presented to only *one adult, one youth 5-12, and one youth 13-18* entry from the entire collection of exhibits each year.

Judge's Choice Award may be presented in some departments by judges who have chosen to express their favorite piece within their judged department. This may not necessarily have received a first placing by the judge(s) but is personally liked by a judge.

Volunteer's Choice Award presented to one Adult and one Youth entry in Creative Arts. Creative Arts volunteers vote for their favorite entries.

Donor Awards come from businesses in the arts. Individuals, guilds, private businesses, suppliers, and publishers set criteria for these awards in each specific department. We encourage you to support these donors and businesses.

We ask that all who receive a donor award please acknowledge their donors with a personal note or email thanking the donor for their generous awards. Award winners will receive contact information at time of disbursement. Please help Creative Arts maintain the positive rapport we have established with these donors by communicating personal appreciation.

Please act promptly in claiming any Donor Award. Notify Creative Arts immediately should a donor mistakenly forget to send an award to an exhibitor who has been selected. Creative Arts is not responsible for the donors' misfortunes or for supplying any award that may be lost due to unfortunate circumstances.

If you would like to become a Big E Creative Arts **Donor**, please contact Creative Arts by phone (413) 205-5015, email CreativeArts@TheBigE.com, or complete this form: [2024 Creative Arts Award Donation \(jot-form.com\)](#)

VOLUNTEER FOR THE BIG E CREATIVE ARTS!

We would love to invite you to join our Creative Arts Team. Volunteers are needed prior to fair time for receiving days, judging and setup, during the Fair, and on the pickup days immediately after the Fair. If you would like to become a Big E Creative Arts **Volunteer**, please complete the Volunteer application which can be found on our website [Join the Creative Arts Team \(thebige.com\)](http://thebige.com) or email CreativeArts@TheBigE.com.

SPECIAL AWARDS FOR OVERALL VOLUNTEER'S CHOICE**VOLUNTEER'S CHOICE AWARD** PRESENTED BY TODD & TERRI BROWN

\$50 AWARDED TO VOLUNTEER'S CHOICE – ADULT

\$50 AWARDED TO VOLUNTEER'S CHOICE – YOUTH

The Florence Sattler Award

The Florence Sattler Memorial Award will be presented to an individual(s) who has made outstanding contributions as a VOLUNTEER. It reflects unusual effort, unselfish interest, and a willing spirit to share time with this organization. This special volunteer award was created in 1984 in memory of Florence Sattler who resided in Springfield, Mass. Over the years, it has honored numerous outstanding Creative Arts volunteers who have been committed to dedication and unselfish effort. If you would like to nominate a volunteer to receive this award, contact the office before August 31 with your recommendations. To perpetuate this award, a Memorial Fund has been established by Eastern States Exposition. Any tax-deductible contributions for this award are greatly appreciated and may be given at any time of the year.

Distinguished Award Recipients

2023 Julie Gentes – Springfield, MA
 2022 Patricia Baker – Ludlow, MA
 2022 Lisa Moskow – Hadley, MA
 2022 Jayne Price – Chicopee, MA
 2021 Tony Sattler, Sr. – Agawam, MA
 2019 Edmond Flebotte – Agawam, MA
 2018 Joan Presz – Southwick, MA
 2017 Janice Tremblay – Springfield, MA
 2016 Terri Bennett – Springfield, MA
 2015 Barbara Little – Ludlow, MA
 2014 Sue Hanscom – Agawam, MA
 2013 Ann Robinson – Chicopee, MA
 2012 Mary Otto – South Hadley, MA
 2012 Lynn Brownlee – Westfield, MA
 2012 Karen Esposito – Springfield, MA
 2012 Gail Armata – Westfield, MA
 2012 Bob Ramponi – Feeding Hills, MA
 2012 Carole Ramponi – Feeding Hills, MA
 2011 Chava Karlovich – Monroe, CT
 2010 Bob Ramponi – Feeding Hills, MA
 2009 Karen Esposito – Springfield, MA
 2008 Dorothy Link – West Springfield, MA
 2007 Etta Meade – Springfield, MA
 2006 Carol Zielinski – Springfield, MA
 2005 M.J. Koslowski – Enfield, CT

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2005 Lynn Brownlee – Westfield, MA
2005 Irma Schoen – Windsor, CT
2004 William Otto – South Hadley, MA
2004 Richard Jaskot – Longmeadow, MA
2004 Mary Otto – South Hadley, MA
2004 Barbara Jaskot – Longmeadow, MA
2003 Pat Griffin – Suffield, CT
2003 Ellen Rodzen – Enfield, CT
2002 Stasia Charron – Easthampton, MA
2002 Jodi Scaltreto – Hillsboro, NH
2002 Alene Wolfe – Suffield, CT
2001 Gail Armata – Westfield, MA
2001 Carole Ramponi – Feeding Hills, MA
2000 Marilyn Tomlinson – West Springfield, MA
2000 Gert Johnson – West Suffield, CT
1999 Walter Link – West Suffield, CT
1999 Doris Griffen – Agawam, MA
1998 Richard Bromley – Hamden, CT
1998 Helen Potvin – Chicopee, MA
1998 Gerald Hyland – Hamden, CT
1997 Jill Kent – Longmeadow, MA
1996 Madeleine St. Aubin – Brimfield, MA
1996 Lionel Finch – Springfield, MA
1995 Marguerite Yung – Farmington, CT
1995 Louise McCrady – West Hartford, CT
1995 Dianne Badger – Springfield, MA
1994 Sue Ewqnowski – Middletown, CT
1994 Mildred Link – West Suffield, CT
1993 Eileen Romani – Westfield, MA
1993 Doris Bragdon – Sarasota, FL
1992 Rosalie Keegan – Enfield, CT
1991 Sharon Gowash – Somers, CT
1990 Edith Michaud – Feeding Hills, MA
1990 Doris Griffen – Agawam, MA
1989 Dorothy Finch – Springfield, MA
1988 Edna Zamachaj – Springfield, MA
1987 Jane Scott – Windsor Locks, CT
1987 Carol Zielinski – Springfield, MA
1986 Florence Gideos – Ludlow, MA
1985 George Scott – Windsor Locks, CT
1984 Emily Drzewianowski – Chicopee, MA