



MARK W. BUYCK, JR. FINE ART EXHIBITION 2026 EXHIBIT GUIDE



First
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Bank

OCTOBER 15-25
CANTEY BUILDING

MARK W. BUYCK, JR. FINE ART EXHIBITION

SUPERINTENDENT

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JUDGES

TBA

DIVISIONS

Professional: 2-D, 3-D, and Photography
Amateur: 2-D, 3-D, and Photography

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IMPORTANT DATES

REGISTRATION DATES: Jul 1 - Sept. 1

DELIVERY DAYS:

(Enter North Gate on Rosewood Drive)

- Sunday, Sept 27 - 1:00 pm. to 6:00 pm
- Monday, Sept 28 - 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, Sept 29 - 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.
- *Artwork will not be accepted or released outside this schedule.*

FINE ART EXHIBITOR PREVIEW:

Sunday, October 11 at 6:00 pm
(Winners will be announced at the preview and posted on Judging Results page on Monday October 12).

RELEASE OF EXHIBITS:

(Enter North Gate on Rosewood Drive)

- Tuesday, Oct 27 - 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
- **Wednesday, Oct 28 - 9:30 am to 6:00 pm**

**This is the only day that overlaps with Student Art pick up this year.*

***Unclaimed exhibits become the property of the SC State Fair and will be disposed of or donated to charity.*

FINE ART RULES & REGULATIONS

FEES

No Entry Fee

NUMBER OF WORKS ALLOWED

Maximum of two (2) entries per exhibitor (See *Eligibility Requirements*).

TOTAL PRIZES OFFERED

\$40,000+ (This figure does not include value of other awards, i.e., ribbons, rosettes, etc.)

GENERAL RULES

- The South Carolina State Fair General Rules and Regulations shall apply. As an exhibitor in the SC State Fair, you agree to the following:
- *I have reviewed and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the online 2026 SC STATE FAIR EXHIBITS GUIDE.*
- *Upon delivery of my entry, I acknowledge that others will be using said facilities and premises at the same time and that the State Agricultural & Mechanical Society of South Carolina, aka The South Carolina State Fair, is not responsible for the acts, property, equipment and animals of others or the acts or products of any concessionaire.*
- *I agree that photos of exhibits taken by official fair representatives may be used on the South Carolina State Fair website and social media outlets, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, etc.*
- *I acknowledge that the State Agricultural & Mechanical Society of South Carolina, aka The South Carolina State Fair, is not responsible for any loss, injury, illness, or damage to any animals or property or exhibit articles and that such understanding and agreement is a condition of my entry or exhibit.*
- *Further, I agree to and hereby indemnify the State Agriculture & Mechanical Society, aka The South Carolina State Fair, from any loss, injury, damage or claim of any third person caused by any animal, exhibit, entry or property of mine or any act of anyone or mine acting on my behalf.*

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Adult Exhibitor (18+ by 9/1/2026 and NOT currently enrolled in high school) must be a living resident of South Carolina or attending a college or university in South Carolina or a member of the Armed Forces stationed in South Carolina.
- Artwork of adult art students is eligible only if executed without the help of an instructor.
- Artwork should be of high artistic quality and have broad appeal.
- Artwork must be original and completed in the last two (2) years.
- **Artwork must not be AI Generated.** See section "About the Use of AI" for further information.
- Artwork should be appropriate for a family-oriented venue.
- 2D artwork must have appropriate wiring and hanging devices suitable for size and weight. (See specifications below.)
- Artwork must not have been accepted and shown in a previous South Carolina State Fair Art Exhibition.

ONLINE REGISTRATION GUIDELINE

All Fine Art entries must be registered using the SC State Fair ShoWorks Entry System.

Artists may register at any time during the registration period July 1 – September 1, 2026.

Once you submit your entry registration, you will receive an email confirmation. We suggest that you print the confirmation and bring it with you at time of delivery to the Fair; however, this is not required.

TITLE ARTWORK

- The exhibitor should either (1) title their artwork or (2) list as UNTITLED.
- Do not place quotation marks around titles.
- Keep the title brief (30 characters) so that it will fit on the entry tag and in the reception program.

- Titles are subject to editing where space is an issue.
- Titles must be appropriate for a family-oriented event. No profanity or disrespectful titles.

PREMIUM CHECKS

- Exhibitors awarded over \$599 must provide a valid, signed W-9 to receive payment.
- Premiums will be paid by check and given to winners at the Fine Art Exhibitor Preview. Unclaimed checks will be mailed.
- Premium checks not cashed in ninety (90) days of issue date become void and will not be reissued.
- Lost or stolen premium checks will not be reissued past sixty (60) days of original issue date.
- No claim that a premium(s) has not been paid, or that there was a discrepancy in payment of the premium(s) won, will be considered when claim is made later than November 30 following close of the Fair.

PRICING ARTWORK

- The exhibitor may offer their artwork for sale by stating the 'Public Price' in whole, round, dollars, or mark NFS (Not for Sale) if you do not wish to sell your artwork.
- **Enter price in whole US dollars, example: \$100 or NFS.**
- Prices may not be changed once submitted.
- Artwork may not be listed as "a price or best offer", i.e., \$100 or Best Offer.

PUBLIC INTEREST SHEET

- During the Fair, there is a Public Interest Sheet to record people's names and contact information who have an interest in purchasing artwork in the exhibit.
- This sheet will be given to the artist when the artwork is claimed after the fair. It is the responsibility of the artist to contact the person(s) interested in purchasing the artwork.
- Artwork specified as NFS (Not for Sale) is exempt from being sold.
- The SC State Fair does not negotiate purchases for artwork and is not responsible or liable for any personal transactions.

UNACCEPTABLE

- No artwork that has been entered or exhibited in any previous SCSF Art Exhibition.
- No artwork with saw tooth hangers.
- No metal and plastic frames with glass (must use Plexiglas).
- No classroom or collaborative artwork.
- No step-by-step artwork, painting by numbers, commercial pattern, kit, mold, pour over art, or mechanical reproduction.
- No paint by number artwork.
- No uni-frames or frames with exposed glass edges.
- No wet artwork.
- No diptychs or multiples to be accepted as one piece.
- No work requiring more than normal careful handling or weighing more than 50 pounds.
- No reproductions.
- No artist business cards allowed for display on the artwork.
- No AI-generated artwork allowed in any class. See section "About the Use of AI" for further information.
- *Please Note: The use of photos or other references may be used only to stimulate concepts for new and unique pieces.*

AM I A PROFESSIONAL OR AMATEUR?

PROFESSIONAL VS. AMATEUR

- A Professional Exhibitor is defined as **anyone who has earned \$1,000 or more during any calendar year** either by selling their items, teaching the subject, doing extended exhibiting, or involving themselves in other professionally related activities in a capacity that would give the entrant unfair advantage over an amateur.
- An Amateur Exhibitor is defined as an artist with limited experience who has yet to reach an accomplished level of art.
- The exhibitor must declare as an Amateur or Professional artist.
- The Fine Art Committee allows each artist discretion to determine whether to enter as a Professional or an Amateur; however, once the Amateur artist declares to be a Professional, they may not enter this show in future years as an Amateur.
- An exhibitor may register a maximum of two (2) artworks as an Amateur or Professional, but not both.
- Purchase Awards and prizes are considered as income in determining Professional status.

Did I earn more than \$1,000 last year in sales or awards for my art?

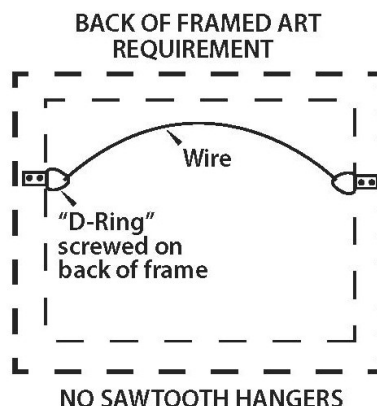
PROFESSIONAL

Did I teach art and earn a salary of more than \$1,000 last year?

PROFESSIONAL

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

1. Entries must be of permanent materials requiring no special installation.
2. *All non-3D work must be properly wired for hanging, no saw tooth hangers. See image below.*
3. Metal frames and plastic frames must use Plexiglas.
4. Canvas does not require glass or Plexiglas.
5. Gallery wrapped artwork does not require a frame. No staples can be visible.
6. Watercolors on paper need to have glass (unless they are sealed) but acrylics do not require glass.
7. Mixed Media using canvas does not require glass or Plexiglas and a frame is optional with gallery-wrapped finished edges. No staples should be visible.
8. Photography printed on canvas does not require glass or Plexiglas and a frame is optional but must have a proper device for hanging.
9. Photography printed on metal does not require glass or Plexiglas or a frame but must have a proper device for hanging.
10. **Photography must be dry mounted** to avoid ripples and must have a proper device for hanging.
11. Items must be properly wired for hanging. See image below.



SIZE REQUIREMENTS

- **Regular Size Artwork** – Artwork, including frames, must measure a minimum of 16" in each dimension (16" length x 16" width) and cannot exceed 48" in any dimension (48" length x 48" width).
- **Oversized Wall Artwork** (*must be approved by Fine Art superintendent at time of registration*) measuring 49" in any dimension (49" length x 49" width) and up to 72" in any dimension (72" length x 72" width) may be submitted for approval.
- **3-D pieces** must be free-standing. The sculpture size is limited to 8' x 3' x 2 1/2' (30"). The sculpture weight is limited to fifty (50) pounds and must be portable.
- **Artwork may not use attached foam board to meet the minimum requirements.**

OVERSIZED WALL ART

- Wall artwork measuring larger than 48"x48" and not exceeding 72"x72" in any dimension.
- A maximum of sixteen (16) oversize pieces overall may be accepted in the show.
- The exhibitor should email a photo and state dimensions of the oversize artwork to competitions@scstatefair.org and the photo will be reviewed by the Fine Art superintendent.
- The exhibitor will receive an email only if the artwork is rejected.
- Limitations: An Exhibitor may submit a maximum of two (2) art works (regular or oversize or one of each).

NOTICES

- **The SCSF Fine Art contest is a JURIED SHOW, and not all artworks will be juried into the show.** Only the works accepted by the judges will be displayed during the run of the Fair. Juried out artwork will remain in a secure area of the Cantey Building and will be released at the stated time of release after the fair.
- A list of juried out pieces will be posted online prior to the awards reception.
- The SC State Fair will not be responsible for any damage to artwork.
- Artwork marked by the exhibitor as NFS (Not for Sale) is not eligible for any Purchase Award.
- The SC State Fair Fine Art staff reserves the right to the following:
 - Change the classification of an entry if the juror or staff feels it belongs in a different class.
 - Remove an entry from competition if it is not in compliance with fair rules or conditions.
 - Deny entry and/or remove any artwork deemed inappropriate for this type of exhibit and to interpret any rule or regulation and determine all matters pertaining thereto.

ON THE USE OF AI

- Artificially Generated (AI) Art refers to a form of art that utilizes AI software to either generate new images or enhance images that mimic original photography or digital art. All photography and digital art must be your own original artwork.
- **The use of AI generative software is strictly prohibited** (ex. Midjourney, DALL-E 3, Leonardo, Runway, etc.).

- The SCSF reserves the right to request supporting metadata, documentation and source material for any piece that is suspected of being AI-generated. Refusal to promptly submit that data by an artist will result in removal from the show.
- By submitting artwork to the SCSF Fine Art contest, you agree to abide by these rules and understand that AI-generated works are not permitted.

JUDGING

- Judging is closed to the public and all judging is final.
- Judging is done “blind” with title, artist, etc. not visible.
- Judges reserve the right to move entries to another category or class.
- Judges reserve the right not to award prizes when either there are not enough submissions or the judges deem it appropriate.
- Judging may consider:
 - -Impact: effect on the viewer, catches the eye and holds attention, mood and storytelling techniques
 - -Composition: arrangement, completeness and balance of artistic elements
 - -Technical Quality: sharpness, clarity, etc.
 - -Workmanship: prepared, framed neatly and securely to meet requirements

AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL

Best of Show – Professional - \$5,000

PURCHASE AWARDS

SC State Fair Purchase Award - \$2,000
First Citizens Bank Purchase Award - \$1,000

BEST OF DIVISION AWARDS

Best of Division 2-D - \$600
Best of Division 3-D - \$600
Best of Division Photography - \$600

SPECIAL AWARDS (4)

Spirit Of Carolina Award - \$1,000
SCSF Tradition Award-\$500
Roots In Agriculture Award -\$500

FAIR CLASS AWARDS (12)

Premiums – 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$400, 3rd - \$300

MERIT AWARDS (23)

Premium - \$100

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL: \$28,500

AMATEUR

Best of Show – Amateur - \$3,000

PURCHASE AWARDS

SC State Fair Purchase Award - \$1,000
First Citizens Bank Purchase Award - \$500

BEST OF DIVISION AWARDS

Best of Division 2-D - \$300
Best of Division 3-D - \$300
Best of Division Photography - \$300

SPECIAL AWARDS (4)

Spirit Of Carolina Award - \$500
SCSF Tradition Award-\$250
Roots In Agriculture Award -\$250

FAIR CLASS AWARDS (12)

Premiums – 1st - \$250, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$150

MERIT AWARDS (23)

Premium - \$50

TOTAL AMATEUR: \$14,750



SPECIAL AWARDS

Selection will NOT be done by the fine art jurors and criteria is subjective.

SPIRIT OF CAROLINA AWARD

Two awards will be granted to an artist in both the Professional and Amateur Divisions whose individually selected work best represents the spirit of our beautiful state.

PROFESSIONAL: \$1,000
AMATEUR: \$500

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR TRADITION AWARD

These awards will recognize the best overall pieces that showcase some aspect of the South Carolina State fair.

PROFESSIONAL: \$500
AMATEUR: \$250

ROOTS IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

The South Carolina State Fair has a mission of promoting and educating about agriculture in our state. These awards will recognize the best overall pieces that highlight an agricultural theme.

PROFESSIONAL: \$500
AMATEUR: \$250

PURCHASE AWARDS

Purchase awards will be made to the artist to apply toward the purchase of the piece. Artist will receive the total award even if the purchase price is less than the award amount.

SCSF PURCHASE AWARDS	PROFESSIONAL: \$2000	AMATEUR: \$1000
FIRST CITIZENS PURCHASE AWARDS	PROFESSIONAL: \$1000	AMATEUR: \$500

MERIT AWARDS

In addition to Top Awards, Purchase Awards, Best of Division, and Special Awards, the South Carolina State Fair is proud to offer the following 46 Merit Awards for Professional and Amateur Divisions:

PROFESSIONAL MERIT AWARDS

Premium \$100

Jennie J. Branham Award of Merit
Toni M. Elkins Award of Merit
Meg McLean Award of Merit
Helen Mendel Award of Merit
Hal P. Moore Award of Merit
Dr. John J. O'Neil Award of Merit
Dorothy W. Ryall Award of Merit for
Photography
Margerie & Joe Ross Award of Merit for
Photography
Guy F. Lipscomb, Jr. Award of Merit
David K. Phillips Award of Merit
Jackie C. Brantley Award of Merit
Niles Storrs Award of Merit
Donna Lynn Gore Award of Merit
Reuben Gambrell Award of Merit
Anne Hightower-Patterson Award of Merit
Jim Finch Award of Merit
Michael J. Slattery Award of Merit
Michel McNinch Award of Merit
Clark Ellefson Award of Merit
Ingrid Carson Award of Merit
Alvin Staley Award of Merit
Michael Story Award of Merit
June Tucarella Award of Merit

AMATEUR MERIT AWARDS

Premium \$50

Jennie J. Branham Award of Merit
Toni M. Elkins Award of Merit
Meg McLean Award of Merit
Helen Mendel Award of Merit
Hal P. Moore Award of Merit
Dr. John J. O'Neil Award of Merit
Dorothy W. Ryall Award of Merit for
Photography
Margerie & Joe Ross Award of Merit for
Photography
Guy F. Lipscomb, Jr. Award of Merit
David K. Phillips Award of Merit
Jackie C. Brantley Award of Merit
Niles Storrs Award of Merit
Donna Lynn Gore Award of Merit
Reuben Gambrell Award of Merit
Anne Hightower-Patterson Award of Merit
Jim Finch Award of Merit
Michael J. Slattery Award of Merit
Michel McNinch Award of Merit
Clark Ellefson Award of Merit
Ingrid Carson Award of Merit
Alvin Staley Award of Merit
Michael Story Award of Merit
June Tucarella Award of Merit

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

DIVISION 100 – PROFESSIONAL – 2-D

CLASS 101 – ACRYLIC PAINTING

Includes all acrylic-based paints, encaustics, and temperas.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 102 – WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Watercolors only. Not acrylic, or other water-based paints.

Watercolors on paper must be framed under glass or plexiglass unless sealed.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 103 – OIL PAINTING

Oil based paints only.

Must be framed or have finished edges with no staples showing from the front.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 104 – DRAWING

Pastel, pencil, ink, charcoal.

Must be hand drawn, no computer-generated drawings.

Drawings on paper must be under glass or plexiglas.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 105 – MIXED MEDIA

Two-dimensional work using collage or combination of media and enhanced photography.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 106 – PRINTS

Original etching, lithograph, block print, mono print, serigraph and collagraph.

Must be framed under glass or Plexiglas; Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 107 – DIGITAL ART

Digitally altered, hand tinted and computer-generated prints, and properly wired for hanging.

Must NOT be created using generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). Please see section "On the Use of AI" for further information. This division is for artwork created entirely using computer hardware and software, or for digital photographs or scanned images that have been profoundly manipulated and/or combined using computer software.

DIVISION 200 – PROFESSIONAL – 3-D

CLASS 201 – CERAMICS / POTTERY

Original wheel-thrown or hand-made art only, no molds.

Must not require any special assembly by the fair staff.

Size limitation is 48" in any dimension.

Weight limitation is 50 lbs.

Any sharp or hazardous object(s) must be under glass or Plexiglas.

CLASS 202 – OPEN MEDIA

Ceramics, glass, fibers, constructions, jewelry.

Must not require special assembly.

Must not exceed 48" length x 48" width.

No wearable art other than jewelry.

Any sharp or hazardous object(s) must be under glass or Plexiglas.

CLASS 203 – SCULPTURE

Size limitation: 8 ft. x 3 ft. x 2 1/2 ft.

Weight limitation: 50 pounds.

If larger, please see oversized work guidelines.

Must be freestanding (cannot hang on wall).

Must not require special assembly.

Must be portable, requiring only one person to move.

No sharp or hazardous objects.

DIVISION 300 – PROFESSIONAL – PHOTOGRAPHY

CLASS 301 - B/W OR SEPIA

Must be framed under glass or Plexiglas.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

EXCEPTIONS: Please refer to page 5 for information on canvas, metal and matting.

CLASS 302 - COLOR

Must be framed under glass or Plexiglas.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

EXCEPTIONS: Please refer to page 5 for information on canvas, metal and matting.

***NOTICE: The SC State Fair will not be responsible for any loss or damage to artwork.**

DEPARTMENT – FINE ART – AMATEUR

DIVISION 600 – AMATEUR – 2-D

CLASS 601 – ACRYLIC PAINTING

Includes all acrylic-based paints, encaustics, and temperas.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 602 – WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Watercolors only. Not acrylic, or other water-based paints.

Watercolors on paper must be framed under glass or plexiglass unless sealed.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 603 – OIL PAINTING ON CANVAS, WOOD, OR MASONITE

Oil based paints only.

Must be framed or have finished edges with no staples showing from the front.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 604 – DRAWING

Pastel, pencil, ink, charcoal.

Must be hand drawn, no computer-generated drawings.

Drawings on paper must be under glass or plexiglas.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 605 – MIXED MEDIA

Two-dimensional work using collage or combination of media and enhanced photography.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 606 – PRINTS

Original etching, lithograph, block print, mono print, serigraph and collagraph.

Must be framed under glass or Plexiglas; Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

CLASS 607 – DIGITAL ART

Digitally altered, hand tinted and computer-generated prints, and properly wired for hanging.

Must NOT be created using generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). Please see section "On the Use of AI" for further information. This division is for artworks created entirely using computer hardware and software, or for digital photographs or scanned images that have been profoundly manipulated and/or combined using computer software.

DIVISION 700 – AMATEUR – 3-D

CLASS 701 – CERAMICS / POTTERY

Original wheel-thrown or hand-made art only, no molds.

Must not require any special assembly by the fair staff.

Size limitation is 48" in any dimension,

Weight limitation is 50 lbs.

Any sharp or hazardous object(s) must be under glass or Plexiglas.

CLASS 702 – OPEN MEDIA

Ceramics, glass, fibers, constructions, jewelry.

Must not require special assembly.

Must not exceed 48" length x 48" width.

No wearable art other than jewelry.

Any sharp or hazardous object(s) must be under glass or Plexiglas.

CLASS 703 – SCULPTURE

Size limitation: 8 ft. x 3 ft. x 2 1/2 ft.

Weight limitation: 50 pounds.

If larger, please see oversized work guidelines.

Must be freestanding (cannot hang on wall).

Must not require special assembly.

Must be portable, requiring only one person to move.

No sharp or hazardous objects.

DIVISION 800 – AMATEUR – PHOTOGRAPHY

CLASS 801 – B/W OR SEPIA

Must be framed under glass or Plexiglas.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

EXCEPTIONS: Please refer to artwork specifications on page 5.

CLASS 802 – COLOR

Must be framed under glass or Plexiglas.

Frames must measure at least 16" length x 16" width and cannot exceed 48" length x 48" width and be properly wired for hanging.

EXCEPTIONS: Please refer to page 5.

***NOTICE: The SC State Fair will not be responsible for any loss or damage to artwork.**