Young at Art!

Submission Guidelines

Eligibility Requirements

All young artists in Delaware, Otsego, and Herkimer Counties are eligible to participate in Young at Art! Regional Youth Art Contest. Young artists within the Utica City School District and members of the Oneida Nation are also invited to participate.

Youth in grades 6-8 will submit their art for consideration in the Junior division.
Youth in grades 9-12 will submit their art for consideration in the Senior division.

All work must be original, made by individual artists, and executed by hand or with the use of appropriate tools. The artwork should demonstrate original thinking and a willingness to take creative risks.

Media Categories

1. Drawing (Pen and Ink / Pencil / Charcoal / Marker / Crayon)
2. Painting (Oil / Acrylic / Watercolor / Gouache)
3. Photography
4. 2D Mixed Media (Printmaking / Collage / 2D Fiber Arts / Digital Art)
5. 3D Art (Pottery / Sculpture)

Theme and Artist Statement

All submissions must relate to the annual theme. This year's theme is identity.
Young artists must submit an artist statement that describes how the art relates to the annual theme.
Fenimore Art Museum staff will provide instruction through the year to assist young artists with representing the theme and crafting an artist statement.
Size Limits

Two-dimensional works of art may be no larger than 36” x 36”. Three-dimensional works of art must be smaller than 24” x 24” x 36”.

Frames

Two-dimensional works of art must be framed, matted or unmatted. Please feel encouraged to contact us if you should require a frame. We have a supply of frames available in standard sizes and can mat and frame artworks selected for the exhibition.

Application Procedure

Students enter the contest by submitting as many as three works of art. Entries will be submitted electronically using the form below. The form will request basic information such as the student’s name, teacher’s name, and school; a digital photograph of the student’s artwork; which media category the work will compete in; and the student’s artist statement. Fenimore Art Museum staff can assist with electronic submissions via alternative methods such as Google Drive, Dropbox, email, etc., as needed.

Please submit files through the Formsite portal below:

Image Submission Standards

Artwork should be photographed using a digital camera set to “fine” or “extra fine” resolution. Position the camera to take an image as tight as possible to the artwork. Use a white or neutral background. Objects not related to the artwork should not be included in the photograph. The digital photograph may not be enhanced or altered; it must be an accurate representation of the work of art. When uploading, please ensure that the image is upright (not sideways or upside down). Please save and submit the digital photograph as a JPEG or PNG image.

Photographs of original art should be named in the following format: Jr or Sr Division_ Media Category_ Last Name, First Name. Example: Junior_Drawing_Smith,John

Artist Statement Submission Standards

The artist statement should be approximately 2—6 sentences long. Please include the student’s name, Junior or Senior division, and media category. The artist statement should be free of typographical errors and saved as a PDF or as a Microsoft Word document.

The artist statement should be named in the following format: Jr or Sr Category_Media Category_ Last Name, First Name. Example: Junior_Drawing_Smith,John
Entry Deadline

The entry deadline is Friday, March 31st, 2023.

Judging Process and Winning Entries

All submissions will be independently adjudicated by a panel of judges. Judges will include regional artists and curators from a variety of backgrounds. Judges will choose works that best demonstrate engagement with the annual theme. Thoughtful use of the elements of art and the principles of design, and skillful use of the artist’s chosen media will be considered.

First place winners in each media category will be chosen for both the Junior and Senior divisions. Second place winners will also be chosen for the Senior division. Additional works from both the Junior and Senior divisions will also be selected, as well as recipients of special awards. These 30+ artworks will be included in our culminating exhibition and reception, Young at Art!

Transportation of Art

Fenimore Art Museum staff will be available to transport art from regional schools to Fenimore Art Museum and to return works of art to area schools at the close of the exhibition.

Prizes, Awards Ceremony, and Exhibition Reception

10 art kits containing oil, acrylic, and watercolor paints, oil pastels, colored pencils, brushes, and more will be awarded to the best work of art in each of the five media categories in both the Junior and Senior divisions.

$250 will be awarded to the Grand Prize Winner. $150 will be awarded for the Best Representation of the Theme.

$200 will be awarded to one class or school with an outstanding number of participating students.

An Awards Ceremony and Exhibition Reception will be held at Fenimore Art Museum on Saturday, June 10, 2023 for first and second place winners, the recipients of special prizes, their families, and their teachers.

Marketing, Publicity, and Traveling Exhibitions

Fenimore Art Museum reserves the right to use images of student artworks for promotional purposes. These images will be credited with the artist’s name. Winning works may be featured in a special regional traveling exhibition during August and September 2023.

Intellectual Property and Copyright Requirements

All submitted work must be wholly original and may not infringe upon the copyright or other intellectual property or other legal or moral rights of any other person or entity.