



2024 ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

ADULT FINE ARTS ENTRY GUIDE

Entry Fees:

\$10 per entry

(2-D Art, AI Art, Photography, Sculpture, & Plein Air Painting Contest)

\$7 per entry

(Poetry & Virtual Entries)

\$5 per entry

(Poems and Photos at the Fair)

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, May 15th @ 5:00 p.m.

For most categories. Please see the following page for details.

Click [HERE](#) to enter!

Each exhibitor who submits an image or entry for judging will receive an e-ticket (one per exhibitor regardless of the number of entries) good for one admission to the 2024 Alameda County Fair.

**Tickets will be sent to the e-mail on file prior to the opening date of the fair.
Tickets are good for any day the Fair is open.**

For Questions, please contact:

entries@alamedacountyfair.com

or call 925-426-7611 to leave a message



2024 Adult Fine Arts Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18
			Entry Registration Deadline 5:00 p.m.		Image Upload Deadline 5:00 p.m.	
May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25
			Notification for Round 2 Selection (via email)			
May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	June 1
				DELIVER ENTRIES: Selected for Round 2 (By Appt. Only)	DELIVER ENTRIES: Selected for Round 2: 12:00-8:00 p.m.	DELIVER ENTRIES: Selected for Round 2 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm
June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8
June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15
					Opening Day	
June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22
	Fair Closed	Fair Closed				
June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29
Entry Registration Deadline 11:59 p.m. Plein Air Painting Contest	Fair Closed	Fair Closed		Plein Air Painting Contest 12:00-6:00 p.m.		
June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6
	Fair Closed	Fair Closed				
July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13
Last Day of Fair Entry Registration & Submission Deadline for Poems at the Fair	Entry Registration & Submission Deadline for Photos at the Fair	Release of All Entries 12:00-8:00 p.m.				



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Adult Fine Arts Department Rules

Submission of entry constitutes agreement to these rules.

1. Eligibility & Entries:
 - a. The competition is for residents of California who are at least 18 years old as of January 1st.
 - b. Each exhibitor may submit a maximum of 6 entries in each division.
 - c. Entries must be made, personally, by the exhibitor. Original work only. No kits, direct copies of original work, classroom assignments, or group work are permitted.
 - d. All entries must be completed within two years of the opening date of the Fair.
 - e. Entries submitted (whether accepted or not) to any prior Alameda County Fair are not eligible for entry and will be disqualified.
 - f. Exhibitors may not submit the same entry at two or more fairs that require them to be on exhibit at the same time unless prior written approval has been obtained from both fairs.
 - g. **Exhibitors are solely responsible for reading the competition guidelines and rules as well as entering their items in the correct Divisions & Classes. While staff will try to catch any rule violations regarding hanging, framing, matting, etc. upon delivery, it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that their entry is in accordance with the rules within this entry guide.**
 - h. No refunds will be issued for items incorrectly entered by the exhibitor, for failure to upload images, or for entries juried out during round 1 or round 2 the judging process.
 - i. All state and local rules apply.
 - j. With submission of entry registration, the exhibitor confirms their ability to deliver entry to the fair on the posted delivery date(s) and time(s). All entries that pass the first round of judging must be wired and ready to hang when delivered to the fair. *see page 15 for acceptable wiring*
 - k. The Fair will provide an exhibit tag using the information provided upon registration. *Exhibit tags will be printed as entered. Any changes to the entry category must be emailed prior to the posted registration deadline. Once the deadline has passed, no changes may be made to the category entered and the entry will be judged as entered.*
2. Juried Exhibition:
 - a. The Adult Fine Arts Department is a juried exhibition. Not all entries are accepted for physical display at the Fair. All entries must be registered online with required images uploaded by the registration deadline. Entries will first be judged from the uploaded images and given a score from each judge. Scores will be combined, with the top percentage of scores in each category being invited for physical display at the fair. Entries will then be judged in person and placings will be awarded.
 - b. Qualified judges are selected by the Alameda County Fair and are recognized authorities in the art world. Judging decisions are final.
 - c. Exhibitors whose entries have been selected for round two, in person judging will be contacted via email on May 22nd. Exhibitors will receive a separate email for each entry that has been selected for the second round of judging.
 - d. Entries accepted for round two may not differ from the uploaded image in any way or the entry will be disqualified. The Alameda County Fair watermarks all online images. If a watermark is added by the exhibitor, the entry must be printed with the watermark included for the second round of judging and during display at the Fair.
3. Judging & Awards:
 - a. Entries are judged using the American System of Judging where exhibits are judged against each other. Awards will be given if, in the opinion of the judges, the items entered have sufficient merit. Silver, Fair Theme, and Honorable Mention awards may be awarded in each class at the discretion of the judge(s).
 - b. Jury selection is final. The judges' decisions are final and cannot be protested.
 - c. Exhibitors whose entries are juried out during round 2 judging will be notified by email on Monday, June 3rd.
 - d. Exhibitors will not be notified of any awards won. Awards will be posted by the winning entries hanging at the Fair.
 - e. Each entry is restricted to one cash prize. Exhibitors may earn multiple awards. However, only their top two awards per class will earn a cash prize. Cash awards will be mailed after the conclusion of the Fair.
 - f. During the Fair, fairgoers vote for their favorite piece in each of the Fine Art divisions. Public Favorite Awards will be posted by the winning entries during the closing weekend of the Fair.
 - g. Purchase Awards: The Alameda County Fair may purchase pieces from the exhibit. These purchases will become part of the Alameda County Fair's permanent collection.
4. Display, Handling, Presentation, & Release of Entries:
 - a. The Fair Association reserves the right to refuse any entry or refuse to display any entry considered not to be in the best interest of the Fair. No entry will be accepted where an exhibitor prescribes conditions under which they will exhibit. Once submitted, all entries are under the direct control of the Fair Association and may not be removed until the specified release day.



- b. Greatest care will be exercised in handling exhibits, but the Fair Management, Alameda County Fair Association, and the County of Alameda will not be held liable for loss, theft, or damage of any kind from any cause. Submission of any work constitutes an agreement to this effect.
 - c. Right to Reproduce: The right to reproduce images of any work accepted by the judges is assumed by the Fair Association. This use would be ONLY for publicity and promotion of the Alameda County Fair.
 - d. **Works are hung under cover, outdoors.**
 - e. Fine Art, Poetry, and Photography may be mixed for display within the exhibit area. The Alameda County Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of the exhibit.
 - f. Upon submitting an entry for physical display at the Fair, the exhibitor agrees to pick up the entry after the fair on the posted release date. Failure to pick up the entry may affect selection for display at future Alameda County Fairs.
 - g. Any unclaimed entries or ribbons will be held at the Exhibits Office until Labor Day. After that point, they will be discarded.
5. Sales:
- a. The physical entry (including frame) as it is on display is what is purchased by the buyer when art is sold. This must be the original piece and not a copy.
 - b. No changes to sales pricing may be made after the entry registration is complete.
 - c. Average prices run from \$50 to \$2,500.
 - d. Pricing Hint: Costs x 2.5 + time value = sales price.
 - e. All sales originating at the Fair must be completed in their entirety before the conclusion of the fair. There are no exceptions to this rule.
 - f. We DO NOT offer either POR (Price on Request) or Best Offer as options.
 - g. Entrants shall be notified of a sale within 48 hours. Payment will be mailed after the conclusion of the Fair.
 - h. All sale funds become the property of the Fair until sold pieces are relinquished to the buyer.
 - i. The Alameda County Fair will retain a 20% sales commission from each sale.
6. Tips & Instructions for Entry:
- a. You will need a digital photo of your art piece or a PDF for poetry in order to enter the contest.
 - b. Digital Image Size: For online entries, the ideal resolution in pixels is 800x800 (length x width). Images that are larger than this need to be resampled (resized) to that size while still maintaining the original aspect ratio. Exhibitors may choose to upload images that do not match the "ideal size". The maximum storage size limit is 8 MB.
 - c. Division and Class: An entry eligible in more than one Division and/or Class should be entered in the Division and/or Class for which it best qualifies. The Alameda County Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer entries to the correct category (at their discretion). It is not, however, the responsibility of the Alameda County Fair or a judge to transfer an entry to the correct class or division.
 - d. Title: Use a short title. Titles may be abbreviated to accommodate the label space. If you do not wish to title your piece, you will need to enter "Untitled". If you have more than one "untitled", put a number after the word ("Untitled 1", "Untitled 2", etc.). Adding one descriptive word (such as tree, owl, lake, etc.) helps track the art piece. Please choose your title carefully. Titles cannot be changed after the entry deadline has passed and will be displayed as entered on the exhibit tag on display for the duration of the Fair.
 - e. Sales Price: If art is for sale, include price or indicate "NFS" if not for sale. We do not have POR (Price on Request) or B/O (Best Offer) as an option. Paintings and sculptures DO sell at the Fair, so please be sure to choose a price that you will be happy with if it sells. The Fair takes a 20% sales commission from each sale. Sale prices cannot be changed. Without exception, there may be no changes to sales prices after registration.
 - f. Description: The description may be brief. Mention of medium and subject content is ideal. The description will not be included on the exhibit tag.
7. How to Enter & Upload Digital Images (for Round 1 of Judging):
- a. Review the Fine Arts rules.
 - b. Save the digital image of your artwork where you can access it during the entry process.
 - c. Go to: <https://alamed.fairwire.com> and Register/Log-In.
 - d. Select the "Create Entries" option.
 - e. Choose the Department/Division/Class for each entry.
 - f. Enter the Title, Description, and Sale Price (or NFS).
 - g. Complete payment of entry fees. (Entries are not accepted prior to payment of entry fees.)
 - h. After payment, select **UPLOAD MEDIA** and follow the prompts to upload the digital image file that corresponds with the Title/Description. If you have multiple entries, please carefully look at the Title/Description in the top right-hand corner when uploading the digital images to ensure the image matches the entry.
 - i. Refunds will not be issued for failure to upload entries.
 - j. Entry Confirmation: Upon receipt of entry fees, an email confirmation will be sent. This will be your receipt for the entry fee.



3-D Art Sculptures

Entry & Image Upload Deadline: May 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Deliver to Building P – West Door
Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue**

**Thursday, May 30th (Appt. Only)
Friday, May 31st 12:00-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

1. Entry Limit: 6 Entries Per Division Per Exhibitor
2. All entries must be 3-Dimensional.
3. Art Sculpture exceeding 20" high, if accepted, cannot be guaranteed placement in a display case, and may be installed on an uncovered pedestal.
4. Sculptures may not exceed 6' high and must stand alone (without support from a wall).
5. Weight Limit: 30 pounds.
6. Cash Awards:
 - a. Best of Show - \$300
 - b. Best of Class - \$200
 - c. Silver Award - \$150
 - d. Fair Theme Award - \$150
 - e. Honorable Mention – Ribbon only
 - f. Judge's Favorite – Ribbon only

Division 205 3-D Art Sculptures

- | | | |
|--------|----|----------------------------|
| Class: | 01 | Clay |
| | 02 | Metal (no jewelry) |
| | 03 | Wood |
| | 04 | Mixed Media |
| | 05 | Other (Glass, Paper, etc.) |



2-D Art

Entry & Image Upload Deadline: May 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Deliver to Building P – West Door
Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue**

Thursday, May 30th (Appt. Only)

Friday, May 31st 12:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

1. Entry Limit: 6 Entries Per Division Per Exhibitor
2. This division is for 2-Dimensional paintings, drawings, and mixed media.
3. Size Limits: Maximum size is 40" high x 60" wide including the frame.
4. Weight Limit: 30 pounds.
5. Entries selected for display must be properly wired to hang.
See page 15 for hanging instructions.
6. All pieces must be original art. Giclées will not be accepted.
7. Computer Generated art is drawings/paintings created by the exhibitor using computer software. This must be the original work of the exhibitor.
8. Cash Awards:
 - a. Best of Show - \$300
 - b. Best of Class - \$200
 - c. Silver Award - \$150
 - d. Fair Theme Award - \$150
 - e. Honorable Mention – Ribbon only
 - f. Judge's Favorite – Ribbon only

Division 204 2-D Art

- Class:
- | | |
|----|---|
| 01 | Oil Painting |
| 02 | Acrylic Painting |
| 03 | Aqua Media (Watercolor, Gouache, Tempera, etc.) |
| 04 | Prints (Engraving, Etching, Woodcut, Lithography, etc.) |
| 05 | Pastels |
| 06 | 2-D Mixed Media or Collage |
| 07 | Drawing (Graphite, Ink, Pencil, Charcoal, etc.) |
| 08 | Computer Generated Art (Drawing/Painting by hand on a computer) |



AI Art

Entry & Image Upload Deadline: May 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Deliver to Building P – West Door
Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue**

Thursday, May 30th (Appt. Only)

Friday, May 31st 12:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

1. Entry Limit: 6 Entries Per Division Per Exhibitor
2. This division is for art created using artificial intelligence/editing programs (Fotor, Midjourney, Night Café, etc.) on a photograph to create an art piece.
3. The starting photo must be an original photo taken by the exhibitor.
4. Entry Limit: 6 Entries Per Division Per Exhibitor
5. Size Limit: Maximum size 40" high x 60" wide including the frame.
6. Weight Limit: 30 pounds.
7. Entries selected for display must be properly wired to hang.
See page 15 for hanging instructions.
8. ***All prints must use a black or white non-decorative frame. No mats are required, but any mats used must be white.***
9. Cash Awards:
 - a. Best of Show - \$300
 - b. Best of Class - \$200
 - c. Silver Award - \$150
 - d. Fair Theme Award - \$150
 - e. Honorable Mention – Ribbon only
 - f. Judge's Favorite – Ribbon only

Division 203 AI Art

Class: 01 AI Art



Photography

Entry & Image Upload Deadline: May 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Deliver to Building P – West Door
Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue**

Thursday, May 30th (Appt. Only)

Friday, May 31st 12:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

1. Entry Limit: 6 Entries Per Division Per Exhibitor
2. Size Limit: Maximum size 40" high x 60" wide including the frame.
3. Weight Limit: 30 pounds.
4. Entries selected for display must be properly wired to hang.
See page 15 for hanging instructions.
5. ***All paper photography prints must use a black or white non-decorative frame. No mats are required, but any mats used must be white.***
6. All classes include film as well as digital capture.
7. In Classes 1-4, processing may include adjustments with dodge/burn, sharpen/blur, exposure, and contrast.
8. Class definitions:
 1. Portraiture: A photograph of a person that illustrates the subject's personal characteristics.
 2. Color Photograph of a Natural Landscape: Natural landscapes are untouched by human activity. These photos are without humans or manmade structures (buildings, bridges, piers, fences, roads, vehicles, etc.).
 3. Color Photograph of Any Subject Other Than Natural Landscape and Portraiture.
 4. Monochrome: Black and white photograph or any single color or hue in varying tones.
 5. Alternative Process/Mixed Media: Entries are defined by the photographic, digital, or artistic process. Alternative processes include pinhole, infrared, tintype, daguerreotype, cyanotype, photogram, and toy/plastic camera. Photographic mixed media processes include tinting, painting, pencil, pastel, collage, and digital manipulation. All mixed media entries must remain 2-Dimensional.
9. Cash Awards:
 - a. Best of Show - \$300
 - b. Best of Class - \$200
 - c. Silver Award - \$150
 - d. Fair Theme Award - \$150
 - e. Honorable Mention – Ribbon only
 - f. Judge's Favorite – Ribbon only

Division 206 Photography

Class:	01	Portraiture
	02	Color Photography of a Natural Landscape
	03	Color Photography of Any Subject (No Natural Landscapes)
	04	Monochrome
	05	Alternative Processing/Mixed Media



Poetry

Entry & Image Upload Deadline: May 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Deliver to Building P – West Door
Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue**

**Thursday, May 30th (Appt. Only)
Friday, May 31st 12:00-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

1. Entry Limit: 6 Entries Per Division Per Exhibitor
2. Size Limit: Poetry frame size is limited to a maximum of 16" x 20" (length x width).
3. Weight Limit: 30 pounds.
4. Entries selected for display must be properly wired to hang.
See page 15 for hanging instructions.
5. Cash Awards:
 - a. Best of Show - \$100
 - b. Silver Award - \$50
 - c. Fair Theme Award - \$50
 - d. Honorable Mention – Ribbon only
 - e. Judge's Favorite – Ribbon only

Division 207 Poetry

Class: 01 Poetry



Virtually Displayed Art & Photography

Entry & Image Upload Deadline: May 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Deliver to Building P – West Door
Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue**

**Thursday, May 30th (Appt. Only)
Friday, May 31st 12:00-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

1. Entry Limit: 6 Entries Per Division Per Exhibitor
2. Entries in this division will be **displayed virtually** (accessed via QR code posted at the Fair) and are **NOT eligible for sale**.
3. Entries will be judged solely on the uploaded image.
4. All work must be the original work of the exhibitor.
5. Cash Awards:
 - a. Best of Show - \$100
 - b. Silver Award - \$50
 - c. Fair Theme Award - \$50
 - d. Honorable Mention – Ribbon only
 - e. Judge's Favorite – Ribbon only

Division 209 Virtually Displayed Art

Class: 01 2-D Art

Division 210 Virtually Displayed Photography

Class: 01 2-D Art



Fair Time Competitions

Submission of entry constitutes agreement to all Fine Arts Department rules.

Plein Air Painting Contest

Entry Deadline: June 23rd @ 11:59 p.m.

Contest Info:

Date: Thursday, June 27th

Painting: 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Judging: 6:30 p.m.

1. Entry Limit: 1 Piece Per Exhibitor
2. Each contestant will receive two electronic admission passes (one for the exhibitor and one for a helper) and one parking pass via the email used during registration.
Passes will be emailed on June 25th.
3. Fair gates open at 12:00 p.m. Contestants must check in at Plaza del Arte by 12:30 p.m.
The artist's canvas, paper, board, etc. must be stamped by the art staff prior to beginning work.
4. Contestants must bring their own supplies including canvas, art supplies, frame, and wiring supplies.
5. Contestants must be ready to paint on location within the fairgrounds.
 - a. Maximum canvas size: 18" x 24".
 - b. Artwork must be affixed to a firm support board.
6. At the conclusion of the contest, artwork will be brought back to Plaza del Arte for judging.
7. Due to limited space, only top artwork selected by the judge will be hung within Plaza del Arte for display during the remainder of the Fair. Exhibitors will assign a sale price or select NFS.
8. All artists should be prepared to frame their work if artwork is selected for hanging in the winner's display. Artists must be prepared to pick up their unsold art on the published release day.
9. Cash Awards: 1st Place: \$200 + Rosette, 2nd Place: \$150 + Rosette, 3rd Place: \$100 + Rosette, HM: Rosette

Division 211 Plein Air Painting Contest

Class: 01 Plein Air Painting Contest



Fair Time Competitions

Submission of entry constitutes agreement to all Fine Arts Department rules.

Photos at the Fair

Entry & Upload Deadline: July 8th @ 11:59 p.m.

1. Enter online and upload images by Monday, July 8th.
2. Entry Limit: 6 Entries Per Exhibitor
3. Digital image must be original and taken at the 2024 Alameda County Fair.
4. The first, second, and third place winners will automatically be accepted into the 2025 Alameda County Fair Fine Arts Exhibition provided entries are printed at exhibition quality and framed per the requirements of the exhibition as stated in the Department rules.
5. Award winners will be notified by email in late July.
6. Cash Awards: 1st Place: \$25 + Rosette, 2nd Place: \$15 + Rosette, 3rd Place: \$10 + Rosette.

Division 212 Photos at the Fair

Class: 01 Photos at the Fair

Poems at the Fair

Entry Deadline: July 7th @ 11:00 p.m.

1. To enter, go to the Fine Arts Office in Plaza del Arte during the 2024 Alameda County Fair.
2. Entrants will receive date-stamped cardstock. Poems are to be written while at the Fair, and when complete, returned to the Fine Arts Office. Submit the poem(s), fill out the entry form, and pay the entry fee (cash or check only).
3. Entry limit: 6 Entries Per Exhibitor
4. The first, second, and third place winners will automatically be accepted into the 2025 Alameda County Fair Fine Arts Exhibition provided they are framed per the requirements of the exhibition as stated in the Department rules.
5. This is a contest for poems written at the 2024 Alameda County Fair.
 - a. Please respect the spirit of this contest and have fun with it.
 - b. Judging takes place after the completion of the Fair.
 - c. Award winners will be notified by email in late July.
6. Cash Awards: 1st Place: \$25 + Rosette, 2nd Place: \$15 + Rosette, 3rd Place: \$10 + Rosette.

Division 213 Poems at the Fair

Class: 01 Poems at the Fair

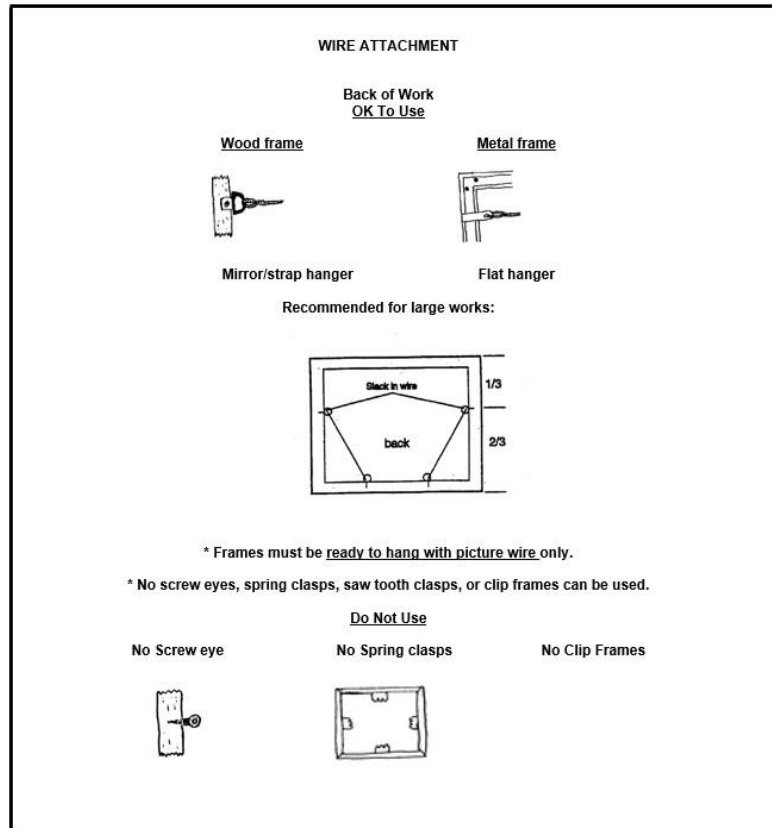


Hanging Diagram with illustrations for all Framed Entries:

These instructions were created to ensure the safety of your work and the Plaza del Arte.

We can only accept work for judging which follows these guidelines.

Please also see individual categories for specific rules and requirements.



AI & Photography Entries:

All paper AI & photography prints must use a black or white non-decorative frame.

No mats are required, but any mats used must be white.



Fine Art Department Judges:

COMING SOON!