

DEPARTMENT 33 – ART

To be shown in the Exposition Building Art Gallery
Superintendent: Brandy Fletcher (217-726-6523)
Premiums Offered: \$2,135.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$5.00 Entry Fee per exhibit for adult entries and \$1.00 Entry Fee per exhibit for teen, youth and child entries. A \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before July 15, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in.

Deadlines and Check-in

Entry Deadline	Tuesday, July 15
Late Entry Deadline	Friday, July 31
Entry check-in	Sunday, August 9, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 10, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Exhibit Pick-up	Sunday, August 23, 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 24, 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully.
2. This department is limited to amateur Illinois artists. An amateur is one who creates art as a hobby or past time and does not regularly present artwork for sale. Artists must reside in Illinois. Amateur artists aged eighteen (18) and over are eligible to enter the adult categories. Teen, Youth and Children divisions are for amateur artists aged four (4) through seventeen (17). Exhibitors should enter the appropriate age category based on their age as of August 13, 2026. Exhibitors are responsible for submitting entries in the correct age category. If an exhibitor enters the wrong age category, the entry will be disqualified.
3. All work must have been created since August 1, 2025, and not previously exhibited at the Illinois State Fair.
4. Entries must be original and may not include objects that are copyrighted, trademarked, or owned/assembled in whole or part by someone else and not the original design of the artist. This includes but is not limited to pre-molded ceramics or work that is licensed, copied or created by other artists. Items made with the use of a “kit” will not be accepted. The use of artificial intelligence (A.I.) or computer-generated graphics that are not the original design of the artist is prohibited.
5. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class. In divisions where there are multiple photography classes, exhibitors are limited to entering only one of the photography classes offered.
6. Entries will be accepted in person at the Exposition Building on the days and times listed above
7. Instructions for preparing artwork:
 - a. All two-dimensional entries must be suitably matted (white or black mat preferred), framed and have sturdy wire attached to the back ready for hanging.
 - b. The following hardware devices are not acceptable: sawtooth, cardboard cutouts for hanging, string, monofilament, and scotch tape. Work using these devices to hang or display will not be accepted.
 - c. Paintings on wrapped canvas with wire attached to back ready for hanging are acceptable.
 - d. Small or fragile sculptures should be placed and secured inside a display box.

- e. Entry tags are prepared for each class entered and will be available at the time of check-in. Entry tags must be secured to each piece of artwork, preferably on the back or bottom.

Special Awards

People’s Choice Award: All entries in the Child, Youth and Teen classes will be eligible. Voting will take place at the Exposition Building during the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. August 13-22, 2026. Limit one vote per person per day. The awards will be announced on Sunday, August 23, with first place winner receiving \$45.00, second place winner receiving \$25.00 and third place winner receiving \$15.00.

Division 3301- Children (Ages 4 to 7)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Drawing Includes work created by hand using pencil, chalk or acrylic/alcohol-based markers	\$15-\$10-\$5
02	Painting Includes work using a brush	\$15-\$10-\$5
03	Crafts Includes work made by hand with the use of multiple materials	\$15-\$10-\$5

Best of Show for Children’s Division will be awarded an additional \$50.00 premium and \$25.00 gift certificate for a class at B’s Creative Studio, Springfield.

Division 3302- Youth (Ages 8 to 12)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Drawing Includes work created by hand using pencil, chalk, pastels or acrylic/alcohol-based marker	\$25-\$15-\$5
02	Painting - Acrylic Includes work created using acrylic paint	\$25-\$15-\$5
03	Painting - Oil Includes work created using oil-based paints using brushes	\$25-\$15-\$5
04	Painting - Watercolor Includes work created using water-based paints that are mixed with water	\$25-\$15-\$5
05	Photography - 2026 Theme Route 66 – includes images celebrating the Mother Road from Chicago, IL, to Santa Monica, CA	\$25-\$15-\$5
06	Photography - Life Includes images with people, plants, or animals as the focus	\$25-\$15-\$5
07	Photography - Things & Still Life Includes images with inanimate objects as the focus	\$25-\$15-\$5
08	Mixed Media Includes work that uses more than one medium or material to convey depth without actual physical depth	\$25-\$15-\$5
09	Sculpture Includes three-dimensional representations or abstract forms; work cannot exceed 60 inches in any direction	\$25-\$15-\$5

Best of Show for Youth Division will be awarded an additional \$50.00 premium and \$25.00 gift certificate for a class at B’s Creative Studio, Springfield.

Division 3303 – Teens (Ages 13 to 17)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Drawing Includes work created by hand using pencil, chalk, pastels or acrylic/alcohol-based marker	\$25-\$15-\$5
02	Painting - Acrylic Includes work created using acrylic paint	\$25-\$15-\$5
03	Painting - Oil Includes work created using oil-based paints using brushes	\$25-\$15-\$5
04	Painting - Watercolor Includes work created using water-based paints that are mixed with water	\$25-\$15-\$5
05	Photography - 2026 Theme Route 66 – includes images celebrating the Mother Road from Chicago, IL, to Santa Monica, CA	\$25-\$15-\$5
06	Photography - Life Includes images with people, plants, or animals as the focus	\$25-\$15-\$5
07	Photography - Things & Still Life Includes images with inanimate objects as the focus	\$25-\$15-\$5
08	Mixed Media Includes work that uses more than one medium or material to convey depth without actual physical depth	\$25-\$15-\$5
09	Sculpture Includes three-dimensional representations or abstract forms; work cannot exceed 60 inches in any direction	\$25-\$15-\$5

Best of Show for Teen Division will be awarded an additional \$50.00 premium and \$25.00 gift certificate for a class at B's Creative Studio, Springfield.

Division 3304 – Adults (Ages 18 and over)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Drawing Includes work created by hand using pencil, chalk, pastels or acrylic/alcohol-based marker	\$40-\$30-\$20
02	Painting - Acrylic Includes work created using acrylic paint	\$40-\$30-\$20
03	Painting - Oil Includes work created using oil-based paints using brushes	\$40-\$30-\$20
04	Painting - Watercolor Includes work created using water-based paints that are mixed with water	\$40-\$30-\$20
05	Photography - 2026 Theme Route 66 – includes images celebrating the Mother Road from Chicago, IL, to Santa Monica, CA	\$40-\$30-\$20
06	Photography – Flora & Fauna Includes images of plants or animals as the focus	\$40-\$30-\$20
07	Photography - People Includes images with one or more individuals as the focus	\$40-\$30-\$20
08	Photography - Things & Still Life Includes images with inanimate objects as the focus	\$40-\$30-\$20
09	Jewelry Includes work made of handcrafted components using casting, forging, hand forming, carving soldering, sawing, piercing, enameling or combining without the use of heat	\$40-\$30-\$20
10	Sculpture Includes three-dimensional representations or abstract forms; work cannot exceed 60 inches in any direction	\$40-\$30-\$20

Best of Show for Adult Division will be awarded an additional \$50.00 premium and \$25.00 gift certificate for a class at B's Creative Studio, Springfield.

END OF DEPARTMENT 33 – ART