



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

These guidelines/rules are specific to the CT Regional Scholastic Art Awards and are a supplement to rules set by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers.

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 12/10/25 (11:59 PM)

(Registration of teacher, student, and all work must be complete by this date)

INVOICE/FEES/SUBMISSION FORM DEADLINE: 12/13/25 (RECEIVED BY THIS DATE)

CT Payment Form, Invoice from Portal, and Payment Must Be Submitted Together.

STUDENTS: ASK YOUR ART TEACHER FOR ASSISTANCE.

2026 FEES AND DEADLINES:

Individual Categories: \$10 per Submission

(Limit of 30 per School/8 per student)

Schools: for planning - \$100 for 10 Submissions - \$10 for each additional submission

(We recommend that you divide submissions equally among art teachers)

Portfolios: \$30 each (Limit 12 per School) – Each Senior may submit up to 2 portfolios.

Fee Waiver: For individual students who have a financial impediment and are unable to pay for submissions, please fill out a **Fee Waiver** for EACH STUDENT SUBMISSION.

In addition to students **ALL** Teachers, **MUST** register in the online Portal.

. To receive communications, teachers need to be registered in Scholastic Art Awards online [Portal](#).

All 2026 communication, downloads, Connecticut forms, dates and student winner notification will be posted on <http://www.ctartawards.net>

Notification of Accepted work will be made on Monday, January 5, 2026 by 11:00pm via a post on www.ctartawards.net.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 & THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 — FROM 3:15 – 7:45 P.M.

Prepare your artwork for Display Early

Many schools return from Winter/Holiday Break on January 5th.

Prepare your artwork when you submit it to the CT Regional Scholastic Art Awards and **BEFORE** leaving for leaving school in December!

DO NOT give your work away.

Important: Your artwork **MUST** be available for exhibition if you submit to the Awards. Please do not sell, give, or send your artwork to anyone else if you are submitting to the Scholastic Art Awards. Refusing to provide award-winning work for exhibition and/or to agree to all corresponding rights releases may result in the revocation of any award given. If work delivered is deemed to different than the image adjudicated then work will not be exhibited, and any awards may be forfeited.



FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES

To Avoid Disqualification

1. **FOR ALL CATEGORIES** - Go to the new portal at www.artandwriting.org by the 12/10/25 11:59pm.
 - a. Register Yourself – Teachers MUST have an account in order to receive communications and be connected to their students' work.
 - b. **Assist your students** to create an account, register themselves, and register and upload their artwork.

2. **TO BULK PAY-**
YOU MUST DOWNLOAD THE SUBMISSION INVOICE FROM THE PORTAL

3. **SUBMIT PAYMENT, SUBMISSION INVOICE from PORTAL, and CT PAYMENT FORM**
Checks should be made out to, a check made out to CT Regional Scholastic Art Awards



PREFERRED DELIVERY METHOD:

PAPERWORK CHECK-IN DAY: (Do Not Bring Artwork)

– CT Payment Form, Submission Invoice from Portal, and Payment

- ❖ **Saturday, December 13, 2025: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**
– **Taub Hall, Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, CT**

OR MAIL INVOICE WITH ALL FEES AND SIGNED SUBMISSION FORMS DURING – MUST BE RECEIVED BY 12/13/25

Mail CT Payment Form, Submission Invoice from Portal, and Payment together in the same envelope to:

— **Andrea Haas:** CT Regional Scholastic Art Awards, PO Box 290683, Wethersfield, CT 06129

4. **CHECK ACCEPTED WORK DELIVERY DATES AND TIMES.** ([Download 2026 Schedule-Show Dates.](#)) **Prepare your artwork for display prior to the submission deadline, as you will only have a few days from accepted work notification for delivery.** - **Works not delivered on time or prepared properly will not be included in the exhibit. Works deemed too different from the image adjudicated will not be exhibited and any awards will be forfeited.**

January 7 & 8, 2026

Delivery of Accepted Work - Silpe Gallery-- (3:15 – 7:45 pm)

5. **FEE WAIVERS:** *For individual students who have a financial impediment and are unable to pay for submissions, please fill out **one Fee Waiver for EACH STUDENT SUBMISSION.***

6. **AI GENERATED ARTWORK IS PROHIBITED:**

AI generated work is prohibited in

7. **PLAGIARISM/ORIGINALITY:** All work submitted to the Awards **MUST** be original, meaning you create the work based on your own ideas. By submitting work to the Awards, you agree that you created it and did not copy it from any other person, business, school, or organization. Any work that infringes anyone's intellectual property rights will be disqualified. You, not the Alliance, are responsible for getting any necessary consents or releases from people or for any places or property depicted in your work.
 - If a student uses photographs as artwork references, they **MUST be STUDENT'S own original photos.**
 - **If such student's work incorporates material, including but not limited to photographs, NOT created by the student MUST be cited in ORS.**
 - "In particular, exact copies of photographs, old masters or other published items rendered into another medium are **NOT** acceptable."
"Works from photographs (most likely portraits, self-portraits and landscapes) **taken BY the student are acceptable.**"

8. **FILM & ANIMATION** submissions can upload up to **two (2)** video files. **ONE MUST BE A FIVE-MINUTE-OR-UNDER VERSION OF YOUR FILM. If your full film is 5 minutes or under upload the entire film.** The file size limit for this upload is 350MB. **If your film is over 5 minutes also upload the full-length version of your film. DO NOT** just upload a higher resolution of the same film. The file size limit for this upload is 800MB. Your film must be in one of the following formats: .mp4, .mov, .wmv, .avi, .mpg, .mpeg. **We also require that you enter the film synopsis in the provided text editor on the Upload page.** Identify equipment and software used in the "List Materials" section. **DO NOT include any credits in your film.**

- a. **Copyrighted Music** cannot be used without the permission of the original artist. Documentation from the artist must be included with their submission form. Students are strongly encouraged to use of original or public domain music. **Photography and Film Consent Forms are no longer required.**
- b. **Collaboration:** Film & Animation submissions can be collaborative and include up to 5 students per submission. A collaborative Film & Animation entry should only be registered **ONCE** for judging: choose one student to create an account and upload the work – this student can then identify up to four collaborators on the Edit Info page. Each collaborator's email must be included. If the other collaborators are not listed when the work is submitted they will not be eligible to receive an Award. All Collaborators **must** then create an ORS account but they do not need to upload the Film. ORS will then connect the collaborators with their film via each email address and student name. **ALL COLLABORATORS MUST MEET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS and REGISTER AS INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS IN ORS IN ORDER TO BE LISTED ON THE LABEL AND PROGRAM.**

9. **ART PORTFOLIOS**

(2 Portfolios per Senior - 12 Portfolios per School): There is a \$30 per Portfolio Fee

Open to graduating seniors only.

Each Portfolio **MUST** include **six** distinct works that **communicate a single cohesive idea or visual investigation**. The works can come from one category or any combination of multiple categories. (*Expanded Projects submissions may not be submitted as part of an Art Portfolio.*)

Artist Statement: Statements should be entered on the upload page

You must submit a written statement that provides insight into the creative processes used to render the cohesive collection of works in your portfolio. Your artist statement must be at least 100 words but not exceed 500 words. The statement will be viewable by jurors. Do not use self-identifying information in the statement.

Potential Considerations

- What do you want viewers to understand about your collection of works?
- What are the key ideas, issues, struggles, or goals within the portfolio?
- Did you make deliberate decisions about materials, processes, etc.?

Personal Statement:

You must submit a written statement that provides insight into the creative processes used to render the cohesive collection of works in your portfolio. Your personal statement must be at least 100 words but not exceed 500 words.. The statement will be viewable by jurors. Do not use self-identifying information in the statement.

Potential Considerations

What is a significant challenge, setback, or failure that you experienced? How did you respond to it? How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

Have you ever had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?

Seniors may resubmit artworks submitted in a previous Scholastic Awards competition as part of their Art Portfolio, but should note if the work earned an award in a previous year. To do so, indicated the name of the Award earned (Gold Key, Silver Medal, etc.) and the year the Award was earned in the artist statement.

NEW CATEGORIES and CATEGORY CHANGES

See all Category Descriptions at:

<https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/categories/#ArtCategories>

10. **CONCEPTUAL, INSTALLATION & PARTICIPATORY ART**

Previously known as Expanded Projects

Category Description

- Interdisciplinary work that encompasses three different art forms: conceptual, installation, and participatory art. This category may include the documentation of live art, installation, research-based practices, or interactive visual art. It does not include dance, music, theater, or spoken word poetry.
- Original work in this category will explore new genres, ideas, or experimental methods that could not be represented in other categories. The evaluation of skill may include both the way the work is documented and the conceptual background of the work in addition to the work's construction.

Examples:*(including but not limited to)* -- Documentation of live art, experimental video art, installation, site-specific or research-driven processes, conceptual art, social discourse, or community projects.

Special Instructions: Individual three-dimensional works that do not create an environment or are not built at room scale should be entered in the Sculpture category. Murals should be entered into the Painting category.

Entry Requirements:

- You must upload 1-8 files that clearly present the work: .pdf, .jpg, .png, or .mpeg.
- One of these files must be a PDF of a written statement that summarizes and contextualizes the work. This statement must not include your name or biographical information because it will be viewed by the judges.
- Acknowledge contributors in the work sources section of your entry.

11. **DIGITAL PAINTING, DRAWING & COLLAGE**

Previously known as Digital Art

Category Description

- **Artwork created digitally and intended to exist in a digital space or images that are heavily collaged or manipulated from found image(s)** (i.e., not photographs taken by the participant) to produce a new image using digital tools.
- This category is meant for **drawings, paintings, and collages created using exclusively digital tools**; other works created with digital tools may fit better in a different category, including, but not limited to, Comic Art, Illustration, or Graphic Design.
- Manipulated images that are derived from a photo or photos taken by the participant should be entered into the Experimental Photography category.

Examples:*(including but not limited to)* --Digital collages, CGI, VR, and digital painting.

Special Instructions:

- Identify the software used to create the artwork in the "List Materials" section of your application (ex: Adobe Suite programs, Sketchbook, Procreate, Corel PaintShop, Clip Studio Paint, Blender, etc.)
- Digital artwork may contain text, but entries that contain text for commercial purposes should be entered in the Graphic Design category.
- Consider entering the Conceptual, Installation & Participatory Art category if your work has a strong interactive element.
- If you are using collaged images, refer to the Copyright & Plagiarism guide.
- Digital image uploaded must be at least 300 dpi.

Entry Requirements:

- You can upload one image for each Digital Painting, Drawing & Collage entry.

12. **DRAWING**

Category split from Drawing & Illustration

Category Description

- **Art that is composed of marks made with dry materials on a 2D surface.** Drawings include all renderings made by a manual or mechanical instrument on a surface and may include formal, realistic, and/or abstract imagery. Ink drawings that are not illustrations can be entered into this category, including those with paint, such as watercolors.
- In contrast to illustrations, **drawing works prioritize the exercise and exploration of skill, technique, and the specific used medium** (pencil, ink, charcoal, etc.).
- We recommend reviewing the guidelines for Illustration entries, which focus on entries that convey specific information or narratives.

Examples: *(including but not limited to)* -- Pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, crayon, scratchboard, marker, ink drawings colored with paint, etc.

Special Instructions:

- **Drawings copied from published photographs, the internet, or existing works should not be entered and will be disqualified.** Refer to the Copyright & Plagiarism guide for more detailed information.
- Sequential illustrations depicting an evolving story should be entered in Comic Art.
- Common classroom assignments that focus on recreating other artworks, such as the Mona Lisa, do not fit our originality criteria and should not be entered.

Entry Requirements:

- You can upload one image for each Drawing entry.

13. **EXPERIMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

New Category

Category Description

- **Images captured by either analog or digital camera that are then collaged, cloned, layered, merged, distorted, or heavily manipulated either physically or digitally.** This category also includes images captured via experimental methods (including, but not limited to, cyanotype photographic images, pinhole camera, etc.)

Examples: *(including but not limited to)* --

- Alteration of negatives to create a new image (burning, scratching, layering, collaging, etc.).
- Creating layouts of juxtaposed multiple images, or that include text as part of the image.
- Any alteration in Photoshop (or similar programs) that is outside simple adjustments in image tone, contrast, brightness, etc., should be entered to this category (i.e., warped images, dramatically colored images, images which contain cloned aspects or heavy use of filters, etc.).

Special Instructions:

- Images where the photograph is physically printed and cut up and woven by the participant should be entered in the Mixed Media category.
- Identify the type of photographic techniques used in the "List Materials" section of your entry.

Entry Requirements:

- You can upload one image for each Experimental Photography entry.

14. **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

New Category

Category Description

- **Art created for commercial or applied purposes.** This includes graphic design work that has a defined use such as advertising or communications.

Examples: *(including but not limited to)* -- Magazine layouts, book covers, greeting cards, fonts, letterhead, business cards, calendars, or signage.

Special Instructions:

- **Work that is based off preexisting brands is discouraged.** If your work references preexisting brands, your design must represent a new, original idea or contribute added value to the source material according to our Copyright & Plagiarism guidelines.

Entry Requirements:

- You can upload up to four images of your piece. We strongly encourage you to upload a variety of images that showcase the scale and details of your work and include pictures from different angles.

15. ILLUSTRATION

Category split from Drawing & Illustration

Category Description

- **An image that conveys a piece of information or describes and informs about a specific scene, place, narrative or character.** Illustrations can be created from a variety of mediums, including both mechanical and digital techniques.
- In contrast to drawings, **illustrations attempt to convey a story, often in a single frame. Illustration entries prioritize a message, often narrative or informational, over demonstrations of technical skill**

Examples: *(including but not limited to)* -- Picture book illustrations, concept art, magazine/publication illustrations, character studies.

Special Instructions:

- Illustrations that directly depict political or social commentary should be entered to the Editorial Cartoon category.
- Illustrations that are done in multiple frames, or panels, and depict a narrative over time should be entered to the Comic Art category.
- Please use your best judgment when determining if a work should be entered as an Illustration or into another category such as Digital Painting, Drawing, & Collage, Drawing, or Painting.

Entry Requirements:

- You can upload one image for each Illustration entry.

See all Category Descriptions at:

<https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/categories/#ArtCategories>