

Artist Prospectus
3rd Annual Wild & Free
Member Juried Art Exhibition & Sale
June 26-28, 2025

The Wildlife Artists of the Carolinas, Inc. (WAOTC), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is inviting all of its members (ages 18 + years of age, and residing in North Carolina or South Carolina), to be a part of our third annual “Wild & Free” art exhibition and sale, taking place at Events On Front, 130 N Front St, Wilmington, NC. We are pleased to announce that professional artist and gallery owner Ellen Elder will judge the show.

Fine Art depicting wildlife (birds, insects, reptiles, mammals, or animals in the wild) will be accepted. Wildlife must be represented wild and free, unrestrained, and not domesticated or living in captivity.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR ARTISTS

Registration Opens	Monday, April 28, 2025	8:00 am
Registration Closes	Monday, May 26	11:59 pm
Acceptance Notifications	Wednesday, June 11	11:59 pm
Check-In	Wednesday, June 25	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Reception & Awards Ceremony	Friday, June 27	6:00 – 9:00 pm
Judge Walkthrough, Registered Artists Invited	Friday, June 27	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Check-Out	Saturday, June 28	3:00 – 4:30 pm

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Exhibition (Thursday)	June 26	10 am – 5 pm
Exhibition (Friday)	June 27	10 am – 5 pm
Exhibition (Saturday)	June 28	10 am – 2 pm

REGISTRATION FEES, ENTRY GUIDELINES, AND CONDITIONS

Artists must complete their registration form at **WAOTC.com**, with payment (PayPal or Credit Card) no later than midnight on Monday, May 26, 2025.

- *A good quality image, without the frame, must be uploaded with the registration for each entry.*
- *Each photo file must be named to match the title of the artwork*

Entry fee: A non-refundable fee of \$35.00 for members (**for each category**)

- An artist may enter up to three pieces per category.
- *A separate registration form and fee is required for each category. There is no maximum number of categories an artist can enter.*

This is a WAOTC member only show. Non-members wishing to participate can join WAOTC by submitting the WAOTC Membership Application form with the \$30 annual membership fee at time of entry, along with the member registration fee. To join, click here: [Membership](#)

All artworks must be for sale (**NFS OR COMMISSION ARTWORKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**).

The artist is committed to the sale price(s) and titles listed upon registration.

Although the utmost care will be taken when handling the entries, neither WAOTC nor Events on Front will be held liable for damaged or lost artwork. Artists are encouraged to obtain an art insurance policy for their artwork.

Sales will be subject to a 30% commission. Sales tax will be collected and paid by WAOTC. Checks for sold work will be mailed to the artist the week after the exhibition closes.

WAOTC reserves the right to use the images of selected artwork for publicity purposes only. Any other uses are strictly prohibited.

ONLY ORIGINAL ARTWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED (ALL MEDIUMS AND CATEGORIES):

ALL art submitted must be original. No reproductions will be accepted. All work must be the creation and original design of the artist. Pieces that originate from a workshop, class or under the direction of an instructor are not considered original. For works based on reference photographs, the artist must have taken the photo or have obtained permission from the photographer to create the work. 2D artists may use reference images from royalty-free stock photography sites, but images should be altered enough or used in a way to still create an original composition – please note that this does not apply to photography. Artwork submitted as photography must originate from an image taken by the photographer. Artwork created using artificial intelligence (AI) is not eligible. Art based on published material or another artist's work is not eligible. For 3D work, no pieces made using commercial molds or other commercial kits will be accepted.

Artwork that has been shown at previous WAOTC exhibitions are not eligible for this exhibition.

2D Artworks and Photography/Digital Art

- Must not exceed 36" on either side and must not exceed 10 lbs.
- 2D work includes watercolors, acrylics, oils, pastels, drawings, mixed media, other works on paper.
- Photography and digital art will compete in a separate category from 2D Art.
- Must be professionally presented, framed, or gallery-wrapped (1½" minimum), wired, and ready to install according to the Wiring Diagram on Page 4. Gallery-wrapped edges must be painted with the continuing image or a solid color.
- Must be ready for installation on the display walls at check-in. NO SAWTOOTH or other installation apparatus is allowed. See Wiring Diagram on Page 5.
- Complete and print ID labels (using template on Page 6) and affix to the **back upper left corner** of each 2D piece of artwork. Each label must include: ARTIST NAME, TITLE, MEDIUM, SIZE, PRICE, PHONE #

3D Artworks:

- Table-displayed artworks must not exceed 50 lbs. 3D artwork to be hung cannot exceed 10 lbs.
- Accepted mediums include fine art woodworking, fiber art (e.g., silk dying, weaving, felting, and art quilling), fused and stained glass, sculpture, metal art, and mixed media sculptures.
- Pottery must be hand-built or thrown. *No work made from commercial molds.*
- Complete and print ID labels (using template on Page 6) and affix to **the bottom** of each 3D piece. Each label must include: ARTIST NAME, TITLE, MEDIUM, SIZE, PRICE, PHONE #.

BIN WORK:

Accepted artists will be able to display a limited number of bin art.

- Bin work must adhere to the wildlife theme
- 5 pieces of bin work per registered member (prints or reproductions)
- No individual bins. WAOTC will provide a limited number of bins., labeled as “original” or “reproductions” to displays our members’ unframed work.
- Bin work can be original unframed art &/or reproductions and must be labeled as such.
- Maximum size is 16x20”, maximum canvas width is ½”
- ALL bin work should be presented in a professional manner: All art (including canvas) should be backed with foam board or mat board and be protected by shrink-wrap or acetate/clear bag, with bags/plastic wrap appropriate to the size of the art.
- Artists must label each piece of bin work. Labels should include artist’s name, title, medium, size and price, and clearly state either “original” or “reproduction”. Label should be affixed to the top right of the protective wrapping.
- Please indicate on your show application form whether you would like to exhibit bin work. A link for your bin work inventory will be sent with your acceptance notice, along with the deadline to submit.
- Bin work will not be part of judging. You do not need to submit images for bin work.
- WAOTC reserves the right to refuse bin work that does not conform with the guidelines listed in this prospectus.

DELIVERY: All art must be delivered to Events on Front on Wednesday, June 25, between 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

AWARDS: Cash and ribbons will be presented for the following awards:

Best in Show	All Mediums Included
First Place	2D, 3D, Photography
Second Place	2D, 3D, Photography
*Third Place	2D, 3D, Photography
*Honorable Mention	Up to 4, any medium(s) at judge’s discretion

*provided there are enough entries to compete

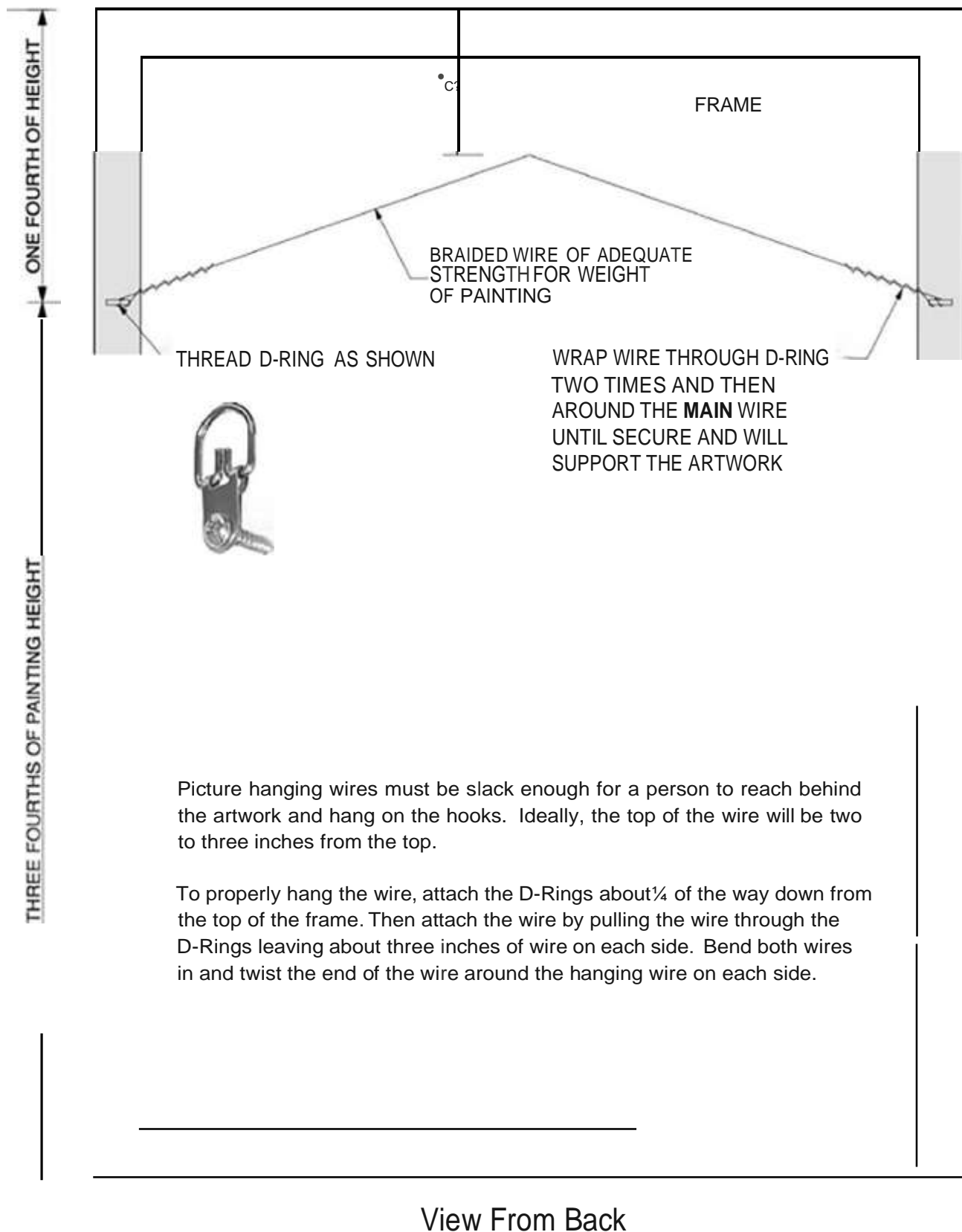
EXHIBITION JUDGE: Ellen Elder

A teacher for 30 years, Ellen is originally from California, where she earned her BA in Studio Art and teaching credentials in elementary education and special education. In 1986, she applied to teach overseas with the DOD, and later met her husband Mike in Japan while she was teaching on the Yokota airbase. After two years, they moved back to the United States and settled in Topsail Beach, NC. Ellen taught elementary art for 18 years in Camp Lejeune, in Jacksonville, NC.

Ellen is the owner of ArtExposure, located in Hampstead, NC, which she built and opened in May of 2009, with the attitude that "if you build it, they will come." Ellen has a studio at the gallery, and enjoys painting in acrylic and works in mixed media when she finds time from running the gallery and custom framing department.



WIRING GUIDELINES:



TITLE
ARTIST
MEDIUM
SIZE
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ARTIST'S PHONE #

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