



CALL FOR ENTRIES:
JURIED ARTWORK EXHIBITION
SIGNS OF RURAL LIFE, 2026

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Important Dates

- June 6: Submission deadline
- June 20: Notification of acceptance
- June 25 – 27: Hand-deliver work to Blue Cat
- June 25 – July 6: Shipped work arrive at Blue Cat
- July 9 - Aug 8: Exhibit on display
- July 10: Opening Reception
- Aug 9 - 22: Return unsold work to artists

Awards

- 1st Place - \$250
- 2nd Place - \$175
- 3rd Place - \$125
- People's Choice - \$75

Exhibition Theme & Eligibility: *Signs of Rural Life*

- Open to artists of all career levels from emerging to professional, 18 years of age or older
- Submit up to five entries created in the last five years (and not previously accepted to Signs of Rural Life juried exhibition); \$30 non-refundable entry fee required
- Max Size: no one side larger than 50" (3-D work requiring a pedestal, no more than 18" wide or deep)
- Any media including painting, works on paper, printmaking, photography, sculpture (excluding installation art)
- Works must be display ready (wrapped canvases are permitted, 2-D work must be wired and ready for hanging, NO sawtooth hangers)
- By entering the exhibit, artists whose works are selected for the show grant Blue Cat Gallery & Studio the right to use submitted images on printed materials, gallery website & social media sites for promotional purposes.
- Artwork accepted for the exhibit does not need to be for sale. For work identified for sale, Blue Cat Gallery will receive a 25% commission for each work sold from the exhibit. Payment for works sold during the show will be issued within 30 days of the end of the exhibit.

About the Juror: Christopher Atkins

Christopher Atkins is the Curator at [Sioux City Art Center](#) where he organizes permanent collection, one-person and group exhibitions. Before moving to Iowa, he was Curator of Exhibitions at the [Minnesota Museum of American Art](#). He was [Coordinator of the Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program](#) at Minneapolis Institute of Art from 2009-2015. Atkins has served as an adjunct lecturer at the College of Visual Arts, Minneapolis College of Art & Design, and Macalester College where he taught courses on museum studies, visual cultures, and contemporary art. He holds M.Res & M.A. degrees in Visual Cultures from Goldsmiths College, University of London, Graduate Certificate of Museum Studies from Harvard University Extension School, and B.A. History of Art from the College of Wooster.



114 W. 3rd Street, Wayne NE 68787

Delivery of Artwork

- Artists with accepted entries may hand deliver their artwork to Blue Cat Gallery & Studio (114 W. 3rd Street, Wayne NE) June 25 – 27 during gallery hours: Wed-Sat, 10-5. The gallery will not have regular hours the following week, so if needing to deliver after the 28th, call 402-454-5144 or email bluecat.gallery.studio@gmail.com to make arrangements.
- Shipped work should arrive in a reusable container/box with return postage or prepaid shipping documents and correct return label. All packaged art must be labeled with the artist's name. NO PACKING PEANUTS. Email shipping tracking number to: bluecat.gallery.studio@gmail.com Shipped work should arrive between June 25 – July 6.
- Artwork will be available for pickup immediately following the exhibition starting Aug 8 at 5pm. The gallery will be closed the following two weeks, so call 402-454-5144 or email bluecat.gallery.studio@gmail.com to make arrangements. Shipped artwork will be mailed back between Aug 9-22, assuming return postage or prepaid shipping documents were included with the work.

Liability

- Artist's work will be displayed in the gallery space at the artist's own risk. Blue Cat Gallery & Studio does not carry insurance to cover the replacement of damaged or destroyed work. Artists are encouraged to carry own insurance.
- Blue Cat Gallery & Studio staff will take every reasonable precaution to ensure that work displayed in the gallery is safeguarded from damage and destruction.

Agreement

- Submission of work constitutes an agreement to the conditions set forth and acceptance that the decisions of the juror are final. Blue Cat Gallery & Studio may photograph and reproduce accepted work for promotional purposes. Artist may not withdraw accepted entries before the close of the exhibition on August 8th, 5pm. Blue Cat Gallery & Studio is not responsible for refunding entry fees or allowing artists to change submission information for artworks which do not meet above rules. Blue Cat Gallery & Studio retains the right to reject work upon delivery if the submission did not represent the artwork as shown in the digital images.

Instructions for Submission

1. Read submission guidelines provided and then fill out the form below. You may either edit PDF form digitally OR print, fill in by hand, then scan to file.
2. Digital images must be in JPEG format, the shortest side being between 800 – 1800 pixels. **Each file must be named with the artist's last name, first initial, and artwork title.** (ex: Smith.C_Apple Still Life) Images must represent the actual artwork as closely as possible. Only the artwork should be included in the image; all background imagery should be cropped out. Sculptural work should be photographed on a neutral background.
3. Email submission form with digital files of artwork to bluecat.gallery.studio@gmail.com.
4. Pay the appropriate submission fee via credit card using the PayPal button on the website or mail a check to Blue Cat Gallery & Studio, 114 W. 3rd Street, Wayne NE 68787. \$30 for up to 5 pieces. Failure to pay will result in disqualification.
5. Please type a brief statement about your submission(s) that reflects how/why the work represents the theme of the exhibit. Note, if your work is accepted the statement will be displayed with your piece.
6. We will notify you by June 20th if any of your works have been selected.
7. Please direct any questions to Carolyn Albracht at: 402.454.5144 or bluecat.gallery.studio@gmail.com



SUBMISSION FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Artist Website and/or socials (opt.): _____

Artist Signature: _____

(by signing, artist agrees to the terms outlined in the submissions guidelines)

Artwork #1: Title: _____ Size (HxWxD): _____

Medium: _____ Price or NFS: _____ Year Created: _____

Special Installation Instructions: _____

(copy and affix to back/underside of accepted work)

Artwork #2: Title: _____ Size (HxWxD): _____

Medium: _____ Price or NFS: _____ Year Created: _____

Special Installation Instructions: _____

(copy and affix to back/underside of accepted work)

Artwork #3: Title: _____ Size (HxWxD): _____

Medium: _____ Price or NFS: _____ Year Created: _____

Special Installation Instructions: _____



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(copy and affix to back/underside of accepted work)

Artwork #4: Title: _____ Size (HxWxD): _____

Medium: _____ Price or NFS: _____ Year Created: _____

Special Installation Instructions: _____

(copy and affix to back/underside of accepted work)

Artwork #5: Title: _____ Size (HxWxD): _____

Medium: _____ Price or NFS: _____ Year Created: _____

Special Installation Instructions: _____

(copy and affix to back/underside of accepted work)

Please type a brief statement about how the artwork(s) submitted respond to the theme, *Signs of Rural Life*. For any accepted entries, the statement will be displayed with the work.