

# 42nd annual 5 state photography

nov 7  
entry form, fees  
& photographs due  
at the gallery

nov 17-19  
selection & judging  
nov 20  
notification mailed

dec 6  
exhibition opens  
feb 11  
exhibition concludes

2025-2026 competition & exhibition

## Eligibility

The Hays Arts Council Five State Photography Competition & Exhibition is a regional fine art photography competition open to any photographer living in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado. Any photographic process and subject are eligible as long as it is original work created during the last three years and has NOT been previously included in a Five State Photography Exhibition.

## Specifications

Interested photographers are to submit **8x10 photographs** (vertical **or** horizontal) – **without** frame or mat (8x10 photograph only). Following the judge's decision, the 150 accepted photographs will be mounted in 11x14 black wood frames with white mats (cut for 8x10 photographs, again horizontal or vertical). Those are the 150 photographs that will be installed for exhibition this year.

## Categories

When filling out the entry form, the artist must choose in which of the three categories each photograph is to be entered and ultimately judged: **1. Nature; 2. People; 3. Open.** Any process is eligible in any category. Please be sure all information, including category, is affixed to the back of each photograph.

## Juror

**John Finch** has been a professional fine art, nature, and portrait photographer for over 45 years. Having owned two successful studios and explored a broad range of subjects and styles, his work now focuses on the fine art aspect of nature, landscape and wildlife photography. He has earned numerous awards, publications and recognition for his work, taught photography and darkroom development, provided leadership to regional and national professional organizations, and served as a competition print judge for both professional and non-professional photographers.

## Entry form and fees

**\* Online fillable & printable entry form available as a separate document on this Five State webpage \***

A fee of \$20 will allow the entry of two works. Two additional works may be entered for a fee of \$5 each. Entry fees are non-refundable. Checks are to be made payable to Hays Arts Council.

Provide all information (print or type) on the entry form, notification card, and identification tags (which are to be lightly affixed to the back of each photograph). If you wish to have your 8x10 photographs returned (whether accepted or not), include a postage paid envelope/mailed with your entry. **Entry forms, fees and 8x10 photographs are to be received at the Hays Arts Center by November 7, 2025.**

## Delivery

If mailing, we recommend including adequate rigid support to protect your photographs from damage (bending) as the photographs selected will be the actual photographs that will be matted, framed and exhibited. Allow ample time for entries to reach us. Hand-delivered photographs will be accepted Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm. If you will be delivering them on a Saturday, please call first to confirm the gallery is open. **Entries must arrive at the Hays Arts Center no later than 4pm on Friday, November 7.**

## Return

If a postage paid envelope or mailer is included with the entry, photographs will be returned following judging if none are accepted – or at the conclusion of the exhibition if any of the works are selected. Photographs may also be picked up at the Hays Arts Center Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm. If no return envelope is included, photographs will be held for collection until March 15, 2026. **The HAC will not be responsible for photographs after March 15, 2026.**

## Sales

With the uniformity of size and presentation, (and framing being provided by the Hays Arts Council), all exhibited photographs (with frame/mat) will be priced at \$100. Should a photograph sell, the artist will receive \$60, with \$40 retained by the Hays Arts Council as commission and for framing expenses (again, work will be sold with our frame & mat).

If you do **not** wish to sell your 8x10 photograph (or have it sold at the \$100 sale price), simply note NFS on the entry card and the photograph ID tag. Payment for sold work will be made at the conclusion of the exhibition.

## Liability

The Hays Arts Council shall assume the right to reproduce any entry for catalog or publicity purposes related to this exhibition or future exhibitions. The return of the entry form constitutes the artist's agreement with conditions set forth in this prospectus.

## Catalog

A catalog listing all accepted works, and reproductions of those winning cash awards, will be published. Each accepted entrant will receive a copy of the catalog when the works are returned or collected. An online album of **all** of accepted photographs will be available on our website and Facebook page.

## Opening reception

The Five State Photography Exhibition will open as the anchor of the Hays Arts Council Winter Art Walk on **Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 10am to 4pm** at the Hays Arts Center Gallery. The exhibition will run through February 11, 2026.

## Sponsors:

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