



Exhibitor Handbook

Competition Rules, Timeline, Entry
Fees, Prizes, FAQ, Fine Arts
Glossary, Special Contests & More

Fine Arts

Painting
Drawing
Fine Jewelry
Ceramics
Sculpture
Glass
Metals
Fiber
Mixed Medium
Graphic Art
Wood Art

Coordinator: Sandy Zally

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602-257-7130

September 19 – October 26, 2025

Closed Monday – Wednesday

1826 W McDowell Rd.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

www.azstatefair.com

All exhibitors must be age 18 and older to enter Fine Arts	Professional An exhibitor who has previously or currently does sell their artwork.	Amateur An exhibitor who has not previously and does not currently sell their artwork.	Person(s) with Disabilities
Entry Fees	\$15	\$5	\$1
Premiums	1st Place: \$100 2nd Place: \$75 3rd Place: \$50	1st Place: \$10 2nd Place: \$7 3rd Place: \$5	1st Place: \$3 2nd Place: \$2 3rd Place: \$1

****ACCEPTED ENTRIES IN THIS DEPARTMENT WILL BE RECEIVED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH AND ON DISPLAY OCTOBER 2 – 26, 2025.**

Online deadline	Monday, September 15, 2025, at 10:59 pm (online only) Entries to be done online at: https://azsffa.fairwire.com/
Photo Upload Deadline	Monday, September 15, 2025, at 10:59 pm
Notification of Acceptance	Monday, September 22, 2025, by email
Receiving	Monday, September 29 from 2:00pm to 8:00 pm
Location	Lower-Level Coliseum – North Hall (West)
Release	Friday October 31 from 10:00am-4:00pm Saturday November 1 from 10:00am-2:00pm

Special Rules and Regulations for Fine Arts
(See General Rules for further instruction)

- All artworks must be original and within a specified class; Computer generated, photographic, digital prints, and copies are prohibited.
- Online entry only. Submit Photos at: <https://azsffa.fairwire.com/> Photo must be 5MB or less and in .jpeg, .gif, .bmp, or .png only.
- Images must be in RGB color format and minimum image dimensions (width or height) should be 400 pixels.
- No refunds will be issued for items incorrectly entered by the exhibitor or for juried-out entries.
- Fine Art entries will be judged first from uploaded images viewed online to determine if the submitted photo entry meets the standards and guidelines of the contest. This is the jury process and first round of judging.
- Accepted entries are judged in person by a panel of judges for the second round of judging.
- First round judging acceptance does not guarantee displaying of the art at the exhibit.
- Entries must be from an individual artist, no groups.
- Exhibitor must be an Arizona resident for at least six months of the calendar year.
- Entries must be recent work created within the past two years (October 2023 – September 2025).
- All works that have been previously submitted to the Arizona State Fair are prohibited.
- The subject matter for each entry must be appropriate for the family nature of the Fair (no nudity or violence).
- Entries must be submitted before the online deadline as well as delivered before the judging deadline. Late entries or deliveries will not be accepted.
- Each entry must be properly labeled with exhibitor information, category, and class.
- Entries must be a single piece, unpacked, framed or canvas wrapped, and wire hung with an optional one layer of glass (no exceptions).
- Entries cannot exceed 60 inches in any dimension or weigh more than 50 pounds.
- Exhibitors are responsible for determining which division and class they wish to compete in. Improperly classified entries will be disqualified with no entry fee refund given.
- Judges are selected from the Arizona Art Community who have proven expertise in the artistic medium they are judging.
- Judging is closed to the public and all judging is final.
- Classes with less than eight entries may be combined with other classes for judging and awards purposes.
- All artworks will be exhibited in the Fine Arts Area, or an area designated by the fair staff the entire duration of the Fair and may not be removed early.
- All artworks must be picked up during designated pick-up times. Due to lack of storage; Items not picked up by the deadline will be charged a \$25 handling fee and a \$1/day storage fee. Items not collected within 30 days will be donated or removed from the Fair Grounds.
- Premiums/Cash Prizes will be paid to the artist at item pickup or remitted within 60 days from the close of the Fair.
- The Arizona State Fair will take all reasonable care of the artwork while part of the exhibition. However, the Fair assumes no liability for loss or damage.

FINE ARTS EXHIBITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Exhibitors within the Fine Arts Department can compete within one of three divisions: Amateur, Professional (Receives payment for artwork) and Person(s) with Disabilities. **Be sure to indicate the correct division on your entry form.** Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification of entry. Fine Arts is open to

DIVISION 100: Amateur

DIVISION 101: Professional

DIVISION 102: Person(s) with Disabilities

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
101	Ceramics Hand Building	113	Printmaking
102	Ceramics Wheel Throwing	114	Metal Sculpture
103	Ceramics Painting/Glazing	115	Mixed Medium - Two or more mediums (2D)
104	Drawing Pencil	116	Painting Acrylic
105	Drawing Charcoal	117	Painting Oil
106	Drawing Pastel; Oil & Chalk	118	Painting Other
107	Drawing, Pen or Ink	119	Painting Watercolor
108	Fiber Arts	120	Sculpture Free Standing (3D)
109	Fine Jewelry	121	Sculpture Hanging (3D)
110	Glass Art	122	Wood Sculpture (3D)
111	Graphic Art Anime/Manga/Original	123	Themed – Grow Happiness! – any medium
112	Graphic Art Cartooning/Caricature Original		

DIVISION 103: Native American Arts and Crafts

All items MUST be Native American Arts and Crafts

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
101	Native American Silver jewelry tufa castings
102	Native American Silver jewelry (with or without stone)
103	Native American jewelry miscellaneous
104	Native American beadwork
105	Native American weaving
106	Native American sculptures (including Kachinas)
107	Native American sand paintings
108	Native American stone knapping

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is my entry considered Fine Art or Home Art?

Fine Art is any visual art considered to have been created primarily for esthetic, and intellectual purposes and judged for its beauty and meaningfulness. To be successful in this distinction, the artwork must demonstrate originality, artistic technique, and quality execution. Functional art, applied arts, crafts and similar items should be submitted to the Home Arts Department. Unfortunately, due to the number of entries, if a submission is not considered Fine Art, it will not be automatically transferred to the Home Art Department and will not be judged or displayed.

How do I know which division to enter?

The Amateur Division includes any artist who has not previously and does not currently sell their artwork. The Professional Division is for artists who have previously or do currently sell their artwork.

How do I know which class to enter?

Artwork classes are categorized by medium. Each entry must correspond to an existing class. Some general guidelines include: If the entry contains more than one medium, it should be entered into the Mixed Media class. If the entry is 3 dimensional (excluding ceramics), it should be entered into the Sculpture class.

May I enter a piece into more than one class or division?

No, each entry must be for one division and one class.

If my art is sold at the Fair, how does that work?

The Arizona State Fair is proud to offer the opportunity for artwork to be displayed as well as sold at the Fair! If an entry is for sale, it must be clearly labeled as "for sale" on its entry tag as well as a price provided. Prices must be a specific amount; no ranges are permitted. There will be no negotiations between the buyer and the artist for sale price. Buyers are on a first come, first serve basis. Buyers will indicate which piece they would like to purchase and pay those monies to the Fine Arts Coordinator. The Fair will collect a 10% sale commission and the balance of the purchase price will be given to the artist at entry pick-up or remitted within 60 days from the close of the Fair. Despite being sold, artwork must remain on display until the close of the Fair. Distributing the artwork to buyers will be the responsibility of the Fine Arts Coordinator.

When will entry forms be available and due?

Entry forms will be available online only and must be submitted through the online entry program. Once entered through program, exhibitor must submit a photo of their work for the 1st round of judging. Online entries are due by 10:59 pm on entry deadline listed at the beginning of the book.

Who are the judges?

The judges are Artists from the Arizona Art Community. Judges are selected based on their expertise within their category as well as their involvement with the Arizona Art Community.

How does judging work?

Judging is closed to the public. This is a two-tiered judging system. The first round of judging takes place online once photos of artwork has been submitted. Once first round of judging has taken place, exhibitors will be notified via email of their artwork's acceptance into the show. At this point, the artists who have passed the 1st round of judging will prepare and submit their artwork to the fair by the deadline. Once entries have been received and categorized, they will be anonymously submitted to the judges for review. Judges will use the American System and premiums will be limited to two per class. All judging is final. The judges may be available during the Fair for questions. If you are interested in being a judge for the 2025 State Fair, please contact the Coordinator of Fine Arts.

When will pieces need to be delivered to the Fair?

Once an entry has been accepted into the fair, the exhibitor will be responsible for delivering the physical artwork to the Fair Grounds on September 29, 2025. Any entry that is delivered late, despite the acceptance of the entry will be rejected.

What are the requirements for my physical exhibit?

A qualifying entry must not be larger than 60 inches in any dimension or weigh more than 50 pounds. All artwork must be delivered unpacked, framed and wired. If the nature of the piece permits it from being framed, it must be canvas wrapped and wired.

How will I know if I won an award or sold my piece?

Each entry that has placed or received an honorable mention will be displayed with its corresponding ribbon. If your piece is sold, you will be contacted by the Fair.

How much does it cost to enter?

To encourage as much participation as possible, entry fees are nominal at \$5 for the Amateur Division, \$15 for the Profession Division and \$1 for the Person(s) with Disabilities Division.

How many pieces am I allowed to enter each year?

Each artist may enter a max of 5 pieces within each class; premiums are limited to the highest two within a class.

How is the Director's Premium Award awarded?

The Director's award takes the 1st place entries within the 11 categories of art and judges them against each other. Some

or all of the categories may not be awarded. Director's Awards are premiums only (no other additional prize.)

Isn't art about self-expression; why are nudity and violence prohibited?

At the Arizona State Fair, we as artists understand and validate that some of the most profound and beautiful artworks throughout history have exemplified nudity or depicted violence. We are expecting over one million attendees this year from all ages and walks of life. In order to make our Fair goers feel safe and comfortable bringing their families through the exhibit, we ask that all subject matter be appropriate for children.

Where will my entry be displayed?

Fine Art Exhibits will be displayed in the northwest corner inside the Coliseum. The location of each entry will be determined by the Fine Arts Coordinator.

What are the prizes?

Award	Professional	Amateur	Person(s) with Disabilities
Director's Award (up to 11 awarded)	\$350	\$70	
First Place	\$100	\$10	\$5
Second Place	\$75	\$7	\$3
Third Place	\$50	\$5	\$1
Fourth Place	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon
Fifth Place	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon
Honorable Mention	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon

I still have Fine Art Questions. Who can I talk to for more information?

You can email questions to Carrie.Wimer@azstatefair.com or Karen.Searle@azstatefair.com and someone will promptly get back to you.

I have General Fair and/or Online Entry Questions. Who can I talk to for more information?

For any general fair inquiries or assistance with online entries contact Carrie.Wimer@azstatefair.com or Karen.Searle@azstatefair.com.

Glossary of Fine Arts Terms:

Fine Art - Any visual art considered to have been created primarily for esthetic, and intellectual purposes and judged for its beauty and meaningfulness. To be successful in this distinction, the artwork must demonstrate originality, artistic technique, and quality execution.

Original Artwork - A work that has been conceived and executed without the repetition of another artists' work. A piece of art may be inspired by or reference another artwork but should be transcended or be transformed into a new original thought or concept. Tracing, patterns, recreations, and any other violations of another artists' intellectual property are prohibited.

Artistic Medium - Art categorized by the materials in which it is made (ex. Glass).

Sale Price - The price, determined by the exhibitor, that the Fair is authorized to sell their artwork for.

Fair Commission - The portion of the sale price that the Fair collects to cover administration of sales (10%).

Amateur - An exhibitor who has not previously and does not currently sell their artwork.

Professional - An exhibitor who has previously, or currently does sell their artwork.

Painting - The practice of applying paint, pigment, color or other medium to a surface. The medium is commonly applied to the base with a brush but other implements, such as knives, sponges, and airbrushes can be used.

Ceramics - Objects of fired clays. Examples: earthenware, stoneware, porcelain.

Sculpture - The branch of the visual arts that operates in three dimensions. Durable sculptural processes originally used carving (the removal of material) and modelling (the addition of material, as clay), in stone, metal, ceramics, wood, and other materials but, since Modernism, there has been an almost complete freedom of materials and process.

Mixed Media - A piece of artwork that uses two or more mediums, and for the purposes of this competition is 2D

Glass Art - Art made from glass including stained glass, fused glass, blown glass, and glass mosaics.

Wood Art - Art made from wood including wood burning and carving.

Metal Art - Art made from metal including steel, iron, precious metals; that for the purposes of this competition exclude jewelry.

Graphic Art - The arts that rely more online or tone than on color including printmaking, cartooning, caricatures, calligraphy, and illustrations.

Fine Jewelry - Items considered to be fine jewelry are constructed of gold, sterling silver, or platinum. Both yellow and white gold must be at least 10 karats or higher to be classified as fine jewelry.

Fiber Art - Fiber art refers to fine art whose material consists of natural or synthetic fiber and other components, such as fabric or yarn. It focuses on the materials and on the manual labor on the part of the artist as part of the works' significance and prioritizes aesthetic value over utility.

Drawing - A picture or diagram made with a pencil, pen, or crayon rather than paint, especially one drawn in monochrome.