

# The Georgia Gourd Society's 2024 Gourd Art Competition

## 2024 Georgia Gourd Society Competition Rules

### Judging will follow Georgia Gourd Society Competition Rules as listed below.

AGS certified Judges will use **AGS Judging** criteria as found in the AGS Judging Handbook: <http://www.americangourdsociety.org/judging.html>

#### **GOURD GROWERS/NON-CRAFTED RULES**

1. All raw gourds must be whole, uncut gourds.
2. Gourds in Growers/Non-Crafted categories must have been grown by the exhibitor and in good condition.
3. Growers/Non-craft gourds must have stems, be mature, and be clean. No finish of any kind is permitted.
4. Gourds in the Growers/Non-crafted competition must be harvested within the last 3 years.
5. Gourds previously entered in a GGS competition are not eligible for entry in the current competition.

#### **GOURD ART & CRAFT RULES**

##### **REGISTRATION**

6. Pre-registration is available online or by mail. It is strongly recommended that all artists pre-register, as there will be a \$2/gourd charge for all entries not pre-registered. (\$10 max.) Non-members of GGS will be charged a fee of \$5/item entered. Acceptable payment is cash or check only. Youth categories are exempt from this rule. All entry forms and tags must be completed prior to entering the registration area.
7. A "late registration" desk will be available to assign artist numbers, supply blank registration forms, tags and answer questions prior to entering the registration area. Pre-registered artists will have a separate location.
8. Entry Tags must be affixed to each gourd entry and are available on the website ([www.georgiagourdsociety.com](http://www.georgiagourdsociety.com)) or at the registration desk at the show. The artist must circle the Division in which their gourd entries are being entered for competition. The artist's name, artist number and category number should be printed on the entry tag. Names will be hidden from view by folding the tag in half after the receipt at the bottom of the tag has been detached and given to the artist for pick up on Sunday. Tags will be attached to the gourd with string or paper clips. After judging the tags will be opened for public viewing.
9. All completed Registration Forms and Entry Tags must be presented at the registration desk **by 5:00 pm, FRIDAY** of the show. Show opens to the public on Saturday morning.
10. All entry forms must be signed by the artist. Collaborative entries require the signature of only one of the artists. By signing the entry form, the artist agrees to allow photography of their work under the "fair use" doctrine and certifies that the art pieces you have entered in this competition, are created by you or the Collaborative artist(s) you named. **If the artist is not present to present the artwork into competition, signature must be notarized.**
11. Artist(s) may enter both the Technique Categories under the appropriate skillset Division and the Open Categories. **It is the responsibility of the artist to enter their pieces in the correct Division and Category.**

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

12. Entries must be presented to the Competition check-in Friday starting at 1:00 pm and no later than 5:00 pm.
13. **All entries must be handmade by the artist entering the pieces & must be completed within the previous 3 years.**
14. Entrants can be a member of the Georgia Gourd Society. If you are not a member and would like to enter a piece in competition, you must first join the Georgia Gourd Society OR pay a \$5.00 entry fee per gourd entry. Youth categories are exempt from this rule and fees.
15. Gourds that have been entered in a previous Georgia Gourd Society competition are not eligible for the current year's competition
16. The competition area is closed to all non-competition staff until the show opens Saturday morning. Please be patient, the judging process may take a little time but we want to look carefully at each entry. Ribbons will be awarded at this time and must remain with the gourds until pickup on Sunday.
17. No fractal or faux fractal burning is allowed.
18. No laser work or laser cutting of gourds is allowed.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

19. **All open (cut) gourds (except functional birdhouses) must be cleaned to remove surface dirt, seeds, and all white seed membrane, inside and out, for show quality.** Gourd birdhouse outside surfaces and stems must be cleaned but minimal interior membrane can be left for nesting material.
20. Stems are not mandatory but must be cleaned and finished to complement the design if left on.
21. Gourd quality will be a factor in judging ALL categories. A poor quality gourd can result in a lower score in accordance with AGS rules. A 3x5 explanation card may be placed with a gourd where a major blemish or flaw is incorporated in the design or presentation of the gourd. The judges will determine gourd quality.
22. Leveling the bottom of a gourd by sanding is allowed and will not be considered poor quality or a detriment to the surface technique of the competition category.
23. The inside surface of cut gourds and covered containers should be cleaned and **may** be painted, stained, decouped, coated, or otherwise finished.
24. Translucent and clear protective finishes are allowed on all entries except non-craft gourds, or where it is specifically not allowed for a category.
25. Gourd stands may be used (revolving and stationery) but are not mandatory. The stand should be complementary to the gourd art, of stable construction, and must not interfere with the viewing of other entries. Electrical outlets are not available for revolving stands. If you wish to use a revolving stand it should be battery operated.
26. There is no requirement that the gourd art or craft be presented in an upright position, but the gourd must be stable at rest so that it does not roll or fall from the exhibition table.
27. In ANY category, if the gourd is not identifiable, photos showing the construction method **MUST** be provided with the entry.
28. A 3x5 card and/or photographs may accompany any entry indicating techniques or products used to create the entry. The card may be attached to the entry tag string or placed with the entry before the judging. No business cards are allowed on entries until Saturday morning after judging is completed. Gourds may be sold during the show but must remain in competition until the end of the show. Sales will be handled between the artist and the buyer. Sales information may be placed by the entries **AFTER** the ribbons are awarded.

## COMPETITION

29. Ribbons may be awarded to the top three (3) entries in each category at the sole discretion of the judges. A sole entrant in a category does not guarantee a First place ribbon. Competition criteria must be met to earn a ribbon of any color. A merit ribbon may also be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Awarded ribbons **MUST** remain in place until the end of the show on Sunday. Special Awards may include Best of Novice, Best of Intermediate, Best of Master, Best of Open, Most Humorous, People's Choice and Best of Show.

30. Decisions of the Judges are final. In the event of an error, no award will be removed but a duplicate award may be given.

31. The Georgia Gourd Society and/or the Show facility are not responsible for damage to or theft of entries.

32. **ALL ENTRIES** must remain in competition until the end of the show on Sunday. Failure to do so can result in not being allowed to enter future competitions.

## Competition Skill Divisions for the Technique Categories

In an effort to align our competition more closely with other state chapters and the American Gourd Society, we have made changes to the skill Division descriptions.

Using the following guidelines, competitors are encouraged to advance to a higher Division as they feel qualified. The Divisions are to encourage competitors to do their best work. Division commitment should be the result of the artist's honest appraisal of their own work and experience and should not require policing by a governing body.

### NOVICE DIVISION

The Novice Division was instituted to allow new artists and artists who are developing the basic techniques to compete among their peers with similar skills. The Novice entrant cannot have taught a class for a fee and cannot have shown in a gallery. The Novice entrant should not have exhibited in more than *four* Gourd Show competitions, won more than 10 first place awards (blue ribbons) or won Best of Division or Best of Show while in this division. Accomplished artists in areas other than gourd art will not be considered Novice. Class projects are allowed in the Technical Categories of this Division only. The artist should give credit to the instructor with an attached card. No copyright images are allowed. Anyone entering this Division must place all their Technique Category entries in this classification. The Novice can **also** compete in the Open Categories.

### INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

The Intermediate Division was instituted for those artists who have mastered the basic techniques and are ready to compete with a wider range of competitors. Entrants in this Division can have sold gourd art or taught for a fee.

Anyone entering this Division must place all their Technique Category entries in this Division. Those entrants who have won more than 20 first place awards (blue ribbons) in this Division or won a Best of Division or Best of

Show must advance to the Master Division. No class projects, patterns, decals or stencils are allowed, and all designs must be original. No copyright images are allowed. Anyone entering this Division can **also** enter the Open

Categories.

## **MASTER DIVISION**

The Master Division was instituted for the accomplished artist whose art and skills have been recognized as superior. No class projects, patterns, decals or stencils are allowed, and all designs must be original. No copyright images are allowed. Anyone entering this Division must place all their Technique Category entries in this Division. Anyone in the Master Division will remain in this Division until they volunteer to move to the Grand Master display only Division. Anyone entering this Division can **also** enter the Open Categories.

## **COLLABORATIVE DIVISION**

A gourd entry created by 2 or more artists. Any skill level of artists, including Grand Master may combine their skills in this category using any techniques or subject. All artists must be identified specifying which technique each is responsible for. For group projects all artists must be listed but listing of technique is not required. Artist bios permitted. Entries in this category are not eligible for Special Awards.

## **GRAND MASTER DIVISION (Volunteer Display Only Classification)**

The Grand Master Division is a voluntary Display Only Division for the professional artist who has reached an artistic skill level beyond the Master level. The artists will have a dedicated space to display several pieces of their best or most recent work. Grand Master artists can participate in the Collaborative category. Once an artist has moved into the Grand Master Division they are not able to go back to the Master Division. Items can be offered for sale.