

# Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition

## 2026 Fine Arts Exhibition Competition and Entry Requirements

The Fine Arts Exhibition is one of the longest-running and finest traditions of the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition. The Fine Arts Exhibition provides an unmatched opportunity for both Emerging Artists and Professional Artists from around the state to participate in a quality exhibition. We strive to meet our mission of “Quality, Quantity, and Diversity.” The Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition Fine Arts Exhibition offers the arts community a special, annual show that directly results from the passion and hard work of many loving employees, students, and volunteers. Thank you! 2026 Jurors will be announced on our website

### Schedule

Drop-off and pick-up will be located in the Fine Arts Gallery.

Event	Date and Time
Entry Form And Fee Deadline	July 22, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.
Drop-off	Saturday, August 1, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Judging	Closed to the Public (Accepted/Not Accepted entries will be posted online AT 5:00 pm, Friday, August 7, 2026)
Public Reception	Thursday, August 27, 2026, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Cash Bar. Reception is free and open to the public.
Pick-up	Artwork that is not accepted may be picked up Monday, August 10 - Friday, August 14 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Accepted artwork and any not-accepted artwork remaining will be released from the Gallery of Fine Arts on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Saturday, September 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Competition and Entry Requirements

These requirements are in addition to the 2026 Colorado State Fair General Competition Requirements, the General Entry & Fine Arts 2026 Competition and Entry Requirements, and the Colorado State Fair Exhibitor Code of Conduct.

### Entry

- A. A maximum of five entries per exhibitor. Up to five entries per class.

### Eligibility

- A. Open to all living residents of Colorado.
- B. Original artwork only. (Original art is defined as a unique or one-off piece – usually the first version – created directly by an artist’s hand or a tool controlled by their hand(s). A small, hand-pulled, numbered series of prints (lithographs, screenprints, woodcuts, etchings, and engravings) is considered original art. Giclees, inkjets, or other machine-printed items are not considered original art except when used to print an artist’s original digital creation onto paper or other substrates.)
- C. No seminar pieces may be entered. (A seminar art piece is defined as a piece of art created in an instructional setting with attendees all creating the same or similar pieces of artwork to learn a technique, style, or lesson.)
- D. Artwork must have been completed within the last two years.
- E. Artwork may not have been previously exhibited at the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition (“State Fair”).
- F. Artists must disclose if the art or artwork was created using an Artificial Intelligence Generator.

## Presentation Requirements

- A. All artwork must be unwrapped and installation-ready.
- B. Two-dimensional artwork must be suitably framed (i.e., no poster frames) and wired using strong screw eyes and wire.
- C. Artwork with clip mounts, missing wires, string, scotch tape, sawtooth hangers, or any other unstable hanging hardware will NOT be accepted.
- D. All artwork must be dry when submitted for the exhibition.
- E. Completed identification labels must be firmly attached to the back, upper left-hand corner of all two-dimensional works or the bottom of all three-dimensional works. (Labels can be found online or with an entry form.)
- F. Due to limited space, we discourage entries over 5x5x5 feet.
- G. Colorado State Fair Management will decide on the proper artwork condition and location of each piece.

## Fees

- A. Each piece (entry) requires an entry form and a non-refundable fee of \$11.00 for the Emerging Artist Division.
- B. Each piece (entry) requires an entry form and a non-refundable fee of \$15.00 for the Professional Division.
- C. Artists may purchase 11-day State Fair wristbands at \$45.00 each. These purchases and payments should be included in the total when you submit your entry form.

## Payment Methods

- A. Payments can be made by cash, check, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express). Make checks payable to the *Colorado State Fair Authority* (“Authority”). Returned checks, or checks marked “insufficient funds,” will be assessed a \$35.00 service fee.

## Selection Process

- A. This is a *juried* competition. All artwork is juried. Only the works accepted by the jurors will be displayed in the Fine Arts Gallery during the State Fair, August 28 - September 7, 2026.
- B. The jurors are solely responsible for selecting artwork to be exhibited and awarded under their authority.
- C. The jurors’ decisions are final.
- D. The jury process is closed and confidential.
- E. Award-winning artwork will be photographed for the annual catalog card, the internet, and publicity purposes.

## Notification of Accepted/Not Accepted Artwork

- A. The “Accepted” and “Not Accepted” artwork will be posted on the Colorado State Fair Authority’s website at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2026. **Please do not call us for results before this time; we are working to get results posted as quickly as possible. No results will be given out early.** It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure the General Entry Office has the correct and current address for the exhibitor so that award checks can be mailed accordingly.

## **Pick up (Release) of Not Accepted Artwork**

- A. Not Accepted artwork may be picked up by Friday, August 14, 2026. Pick-up hours are Monday, August 10 - Friday, August 14, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m..
- B. If exhibitors do not pick up their artwork by Friday, August 14th, the artwork will be stored until the completion of the Fine Arts Exhibition. It will be released on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. or Saturday, September 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Gallery.
- C. All artwork must be claimed by 3 p.m. on September 12th unless prior arrangements have been made. Any item of art or artwork not retrieved within 90 days of September 12, 2026, becomes the sole possession of the Colorado State Fair Authority and may be sold or donated.

## **Pick-up of Accepted Artwork**

- A. Accepted artwork must be exhibited during the 11 days of the Fine Arts Exhibition and the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition, August 28 - September 7. No exceptions.
- B. Exhibition artwork will be released for pick-up on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Saturday, September 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Gallery, Colorado State Fairgrounds.
- C. All artwork must be claimed by September 12th unless prior arrangements are made. Any item of art or artwork not retrieved within 90 days of September 12, 2026, becomes the sole possession of the Colorado State Fair Authority and may be sold or donated.

## **Sale of Artwork**

- A. Colorado State Fair Authority retains a 25% commission on all art sales.

- B. The entry form must indicate the sale price of the artwork. Not-for-sale artwork must be identified as "NFS." Sale prices may not be changed once the entry form is submitted.
- C. Artists who sell artwork are required to complete a W-9 Form.
- D. Payment checks will be mailed by the last day of October of the same year.

## Entry Procedures

- A. Artwork can be submitted in three ways: hand-delivered, electronically (must hand-deliver if accepted), or by mail. Exhibitors must pre-register (complete the entry form and pay fees) online or at the General Entry Office in the Palace of Agriculture beginning Monday, June 15, and continuing through Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

## Hand-delivered Artwork

- A. **Entry form and fees are due Wednesday, July 22, 2026**
- B. **Artwork must be dropped off on Saturday, August 1, 2026, by 3:00 PM**
- C. All entry forms and fees (online, mailed, and hand-delivered) must be received by Wednesday, July 22, 2026. We will accept all hand-delivered artwork on Saturday, August 1, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Gallery, Colorado State Fair Authority's grounds. Enter the Authority's grounds through Gate #9 on Beulah Avenue. All hand-delivered artwork will be received at the FRONT entrance to the Fine Arts Gallery.
- D. Print neatly so your name, artwork titles, and pricing are legible. All information on your entry form should match the label attached to your artwork.
- E. All items must have proper hardware and be fully unpacked and labeled before entering the drop-off line. If your items are not ready for drop-off, you will be sent back to the unpacking table before being allowed to proceed.

## Electronically submitted Artwork

- A. Entry and Registration are due Wednesday, July 22, 2026**
- B. Electronically submitted artwork is optional. Please only submit your work electronically if you do not plan to hand deliver your work for judging.
- C. When registering online, you will be prompted to upload images of the artwork after the registration process.
- D. Electronically submitted pieces that are accepted must arrive on the Colorado State Fair Authority's grounds ready to hang or display by the close of posted hours on Friday, August 14, 2026.

## Mail-submitted Artwork

- A. Due Wednesday, July 22, 2026**
- B. We accept mailed artwork. Completed identification labels must be firmly attached to the back, upper-left-hand corner of all two-dimensional works or the bottom of all three-dimensional works. (Labels can be found online or with an entry form.)
- C. Entries may be registered and paid online or accompanied by a signed entry form and full payment by check. All artwork must be mailed and prepaid. Mail artwork, entry form, and fees to Colorado State Fair Authority, General Entry & Fine Arts Department, 1001 Beulah Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004

**POSTNET**  
**Design • Print • Send • Etc.**  
Located: Safeway Shopping Center  
1021 N. Market Plaza, Suite 107  
Pueblo West, CO 81007  
719-547-3493

If you would like to have your artwork mailed back to you after the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition, please contact PostNet at 719.547.3493 or [co120@postnet.com](mailto:co120@postnet.com)

## Insurance Disclaimer

Colorado State Fair Authority will use diligence to ensure the safety of all artwork after arrival and placement, but in no case will Colorado State Fair Authority be responsible or liable for any loss or damage from any cause before, during, or after the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition. Artists are encouraged to insure artwork privately if they feel the need for such protection.

### Contact Information:

Colorado State Fair Authority, General Entry and Fine Arts, 1001 Beulah Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004

**Phone:** 719-404-2080

**Website:** [coloradostatefair.com](http://coloradostatefair.com)

**Email:** [ge@coloradostatefair.com](mailto:ge@coloradostatefair.com)

## Definitions

These definitions exist for the purpose of this competition and will assist you in placing your artwork in the correct category.

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

**Drawing/Printmaking** - (Drawing) Using instruments to mark paper or other two-dimensional surfaces. Instruments include graphite, inked brushes, colored pencils, crayons, charcoal, chalk, pastels, erasers, markers, styluses, and metals (such as silverpoint). (Printmaking) The process of creating artwork by printing, mostly on paper, but also on fabric, wood, metal, and other surfaces. Printmaking processes can produce identical multiples of the same work and are created using a hand-processed technique.

**Sculpture (3D)/Ceramics** - (Sculpture) Three-dimensional art. Sculpture processes include but are not limited to carving, assembling, welding, modeling, molding, and casting. (Ceramics) Various hard,

brittle, heat-resistant, and corrosion-resistant materials are made by shaping and then firing an inorganic, nonmetallic material, such as clay, at a high temperature. Common examples are earthenware, porcelain, and brick.

**Photography** - The art, application, and practice of creating durable images by recording light, electronically using an image sensor or chemically using light-sensitive material such as photographic film. For the purpose of this competition, photographs taken with a digital camera are acceptable, but significant digital modification is not allowed in this category. Acceptable modifications include but are not limited to cropping, resizing, and slight (20% or less) color correction.

**Digital Arts/Digitally-Manipulated Photography** - (Digital Arts) Artistic practice that uses digital technology as part of the creative or presentation process, including art created using an Artificial Intelligence Generator. (Digitally-Manipulated Photography) Digitally editing a photograph by more than 10%. Some examples of digitally manipulated photography are: using digital filters, manipulating color, saturation, tone, or vibrance more than 20% or in a manner that is not the natural or original color, pixelation, any photoshopping beyond basic edits (cropping, resizing, 20% or less color correction), erasure of elements in photograph, and recombination of images.

**Mixed Media** - Artwork in which multiple media or materials have been employed. Assemblages, collages, and certain sculptures are three common examples.

**Jewelry/Metalsmithing** - (Jewelry) Decorative items worn for personal adornment, such as brooches, rings, necklaces, earrings, pendants, bracelets, and cufflinks. Jewelry may be attached to the body or the clothes. Jewelry often contains precious metals in combination with gemstones or other materials such as shells. (Metalsmithing) The process of creating jewelry involves the manipulation of various metals. These manipulations include forming and shaping, sawing, doming, fold forming, drilling, soldering, texturing, stamping, and more.

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

## Professional Division

### Entry Fee

\$15 per entry

### Criteria

Ensure you complete the entry form for the Division that best suits you. You are a professional if a majority of the following apply to you:

1. You have a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Master or Doctorate in Art; or
2. A significant portion of your annual income is earned through the sale of your artwork, or
3. You have won numerous awards for your art in juried national or regional exhibitions; or
4. You currently, or in the past, have had exhibitions within a museum environment; or
5. You are a visual art instructor, or
6. You currently, or recently, have had commercial gallery representation.

### Categories

- 0001. Painting
- 0002. Drawing/Printmaking
- 0003. Sculpture (3D)/Ceramics
- 0004. Photography
- 0005. Digital Arts/Digitally-Manipulated Photography
- 0006. (2D) Mixed Media
- 0007. Jewelry/Metalsmithing
- 0008. Fiber Art

## **Awards**

- Best of Show, \$500
- First Place (awarded in each category), \$400
- Second Place (awarded in each category), \$200
- Third Place (awarded in each category), \$100
- Jurors' Choice (2), \$75
- Honorable Mention Awards, Ribbons
- People's Choice Award (selected from either division), \$100

## Emerging Artist Division

### Entry Fee

\$11 per entry

### Criteria

Ensure you complete the entry form for the Division that best suits you. You are an emerging artist if a majority of the following apply to you:

1. You are currently enrolled in high school or college, or
2. You regularly take art classes from professional instructors; or
3. You are not consistently showing your art within commercial galleries, or
4. You have not won numerous awards in national or regional juried exhibitions; or
5. Your income is not significantly impacted by the sale of your artwork; or
6. You enter fewer than six juried exhibitions annually.

### Categories

- 0001. Painting
- 0002. Drawing/Printmaking
- 0003. Sculpture (3D)/Ceramics
- 0004. Photography
- 0005. Digital Arts/Digitally-Manipulated Photography
- 0006. (2D) Mixed Media
- 0007. Jewelry/Metalsmithing
- 0008. Fiber Art

## **Awards**

- Best of Show, \$400
- First Place (awarded in each category), \$300
- Second Place (awarded in each category), \$150
- Third Place (awarded in each category), \$75
- Jurors' Choice (2), \$50
- Honorable Mention Awards, Ribbons
- People's Choice Award (selected from either division), \$100