

FINE ART SHOW COMPETITION GUIDE

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WASHINGTON STATE FAIR

SEPTEMBER 4 - 27, 2026

(CLOSED TUESDAYS & SEPT. 9)

110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup WA 98371-6811

24-Hour Hotline: 253-841-5045 | THEFAIR.COM



2026 FINE ART SHOW CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: white; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> Online Entry Registration begins May 2026 </div>						
JULY 26	JULY 27	JULY 28	JULY 29	JULY 30	JULY 31	AUG. 1
ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION DUE by 10pm						
AUG. 2	AUG. 3	AUG. 4	AUG. 5	AUG. 6	AUG. 7	AUG. 8
				BRING IN ENTRIES 10am-6pm	BRING IN ENTRIES 12pm-8pm	BRING IN ENTRIES 10am-3pm
AUG. 9	AUG. 10	AUG. 11	AUG. 12	AUG. 13	AUG. 14	AUG. 15
AUG. 16	AUG. 17	AUG. 18	AUG. 19	AUG. 20	AUG. 21	AUG. 22
AUG. 23	AUG. 24	AUG. 25	AUG. 26	AUG. 27	AUG. 28	AUG. 29
		NON-ACCEPTED ENTRIES, pick up 1pm-6pm				
AUG. 30	AUG. 31	SEPT. 1	SEPT. 2	SEPT. 3	SEPT. 4	SEPT. 5
					OPENING DAY OF FAIR	
SEPT. 6	SEPT. 7	SEPT. 8	SEPT. 9	SEPT. 10	SEPT. 11	SEPT. 12
		FAIR CLOSED	FAIR CLOSED			
SEPT. 13	SEPT. 14	SEPT. 15	SEPT. 16	SEPT. 17	SEPT. 18	SEPT. 19
		FAIR CLOSED				
SEPT. 20	SEPT. 21	SEPT. 22	SEPT. 23	SEPT. 24	SEPT. 25	SEPT. 26
		FAIR CLOSED				
SEPT. 27	SEPT. 28	SEPT. 29	SEPT. 30	OCT. 1	OCT. 2	OCT. 3
LAST DAY OF FAIR					Art may be picked up from Fine Art, 12pm - 8pm	Art may be picked up from Fine Art, 11am - 3pm

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ENTRY CHECKLIST

- 1) Online entry: did you click submit and receive a confirmation email?**
- 2) Does your artwork match the size and presentation requirements for its division?**
- 3) Is there a label on the back left corner with your full name and artwork title?**
- 4) Does your 2 - dimensional artwork have a tight wire, 1/3rd from the top of the frame/artwork?**

TO ENTER

1. Review entire Competition Guide.
2. Determine division(s) for artwork.
3. Register online using Online Entry Registration Instruction (pg. 4) as a guide.
4. Note dates and requirements for drop off and pick up.

HELP US CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

The Fine Art show is looking for your artistic rendering of America's historic events, scenes or culture, spanning America's last 250 years.

*This is optional and not a requirement.

Washington STATE FAIR

DO THE PUYALLUP!

SEPTEMBER 4 - 27, 2026
(CLOSED TUESDAYS & SEPT. 9)

By submitting an entry into the Fair, exhibitors agree to abide by all rules, regulations and entry requirements of the Fair and of the department(s) to which they are submitting their entries. It is important that exhibitors read and be familiar with the rules in this book, as well as the Departmental Exhibitors Rules and Regulations.

Please click here: [Enter a Competition](#) and scroll down to 'ADDITIONAL INFORMATION' to find:

- Departmental Exhibitors Rules and Regulations
- Vehicle Unloading Procedures
- Insurance Information

You may not find it necessary to print this entire Competition Guide. While we ask that you **read and be familiar with** the information in the Competition Guide prior to entry, please feel free to print just the **pages you need**.

Online Entry Registration Instructions

Read below, then register entry information online before bringing items to the Fair.

www.thefair.com

- Read the complete rules, department and division descriptions, and entry information in this Premium List **BEFORE** going to online entry registration.
- Then, go to the Fair's **[ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION](#)** page (**available starting May**).
- Click **[Login/Logoff](#)** and choose your **Type: Exhibitor**
 - Register using your First Name and Last Name and create a password (*write your password down or make sure it is something you will remember for future use.*) Fill in requested information, including email address. Click **[Continue](#)**.
- Click **[Create Entries](#)**. For each entry:
 - Select a **[Department](#)** ex.: *Fine Art*
 - Select a **[Division](#)** ex.: *Mixed Media - Division 304*
 - Select a **[Class](#)** ex.: *class 01 - Mixed Media, piece #1*
Fill in all requested information for the class(es) you are entering:
ex.: **Title:** *Serenity in the Rain*
Description: *'yellow flowers in pond', or 'old man in blue shirt'*
NOTE: *If your artwork consists of multiple pieces to be judged as one entry (such as triptychs or sets) indicate **number of pieces** in the description!*
- When you have completed entering all your information, click **[Continue](#)** and follow the instructions to check out.
- Fill in "yes" at the statement to **agree to all the terms and conditions of entry as defined in this premium list**.
- Click **[Submit](#)**.
- For questions regarding online entry registration, contact: (360) 469-1978, CompExhibits@thefair.com

WASHINGTON STATE FAIR FINE ART SHOW

SEPTEMBER 4 - 27, 2026
(CLOSED TUESDAYS & SEPT. 9)

PURPOSE OF SHOW

The Washington State Fair Fine Art Show is a juried, competitive art event celebrating Washington artists, with an opportunity to display and sell their accepted work.

ELIGIBILITY

- Artists must be **18 years or older**.
- **Artwork must be entered by the artist.** Art owners or galleries may not enter another artist's work.
- **PLAGIARISM POLICY:**
All participants affirm that the artwork submitted is their own original work and does not infringe upon the copyrights or intellectual property rights of any other party.
Original Work is defined as a new and unique creation by the artist.
Unique is artwork that is one-of-a-kind work that does not appear in other artist's body of work or on websites.
Immediate Removal: any work found to be in violation of this policy will be disqualified from the show and removed from display immediately.
Future Entry Prohibition: repeated infringement will result in the infringing artist being barred from submitting artwork to future exhibitions.
Repercussions: by submitting artwork, the artist assumes full responsibility for its originality and any legal repercussions that may arise.
- Artwork done under specific instructor guidance cannot be accepted.
- **Nude Statement:** Because we are a family friendly Fair, artwork containing any nudity will not be accepted.
- **Each artist may enter two (2) pieces of art in each division. Four (4) miniatures may be entered.**
- Art must have been created within the last three years and not have been previously accepted in this show.
- Stained glass, wood carving/constructing and wall hangings are entered in the Creative Arts department.

ENTRY FEE

- Entry fee: **\$6.00 per piece** in all divisions except miniatures.
- Fee for miniatures is **\$3.00 per piece**.
- **Entry fees are non-refundable.**

CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY – DATES & TIMES

REGISTER ONLINE

Online registration must be completed and paid for by
Sunday, July 26 by 10pm

**See step-by-step instructions on page 4.*

DELIVER YOUR ARTWORK

Thursday, Aug. 6, 10am – 6pm

Friday, Aug. 7, 12pm – 8pm

Saturday, Aug. 8, 10am - 3pm

(Artwork Will Only Be Received On These Dates And Times)

- Artwork for entry must be delivered to the Art Gallery at The Washington State Fair, located off the west end of the Mattress Firm ShowPlex.
- **Walk in** through the **Orange Gate in Lot E**.
- **Free parking** is available in the **Lot E parking lot**.
- **Drive in entry is available through the Orange Gate in Lot E for heavy, over-sized items only.**
- Limited parking is available on the grounds and is restricted to a maximum of twenty minutes. Vehicles entering the grounds may be subject to inspection.
- **Once you are inside the gates, follow the directional signs to the Art Gallery.**
- Entries will not be accepted outside of the dates and times listed above.

CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE – DATES & TIMES

PICK-UP YOUR ARTWORK

NON-ACCEPTED RETURNS:

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 1pm - 6pm.

ACCEPTED RETURNS:

Friday, Oct. 2, 12pm – 8pm

Saturday, Oct. 3, 11am – 3pm

- **All artwork must be picked up during designated release dates.**
- Artwork for release must be picked up from the Art Gallery at The Washington State Fair, located off the west end of the Mattress Firm ShowPlex.
- **Walk in entrance** is through the **Orange Gate in Lot E**.
- **Free parking** is available in the **Lot E parking lot**.
- **Drive in entry is available through the Orange Gate in Lot E for heavy, over-sized items.**
- Limited parking is available on the grounds and is restricted to a maximum of one hour. Vehicles entering the grounds may be subject to inspection.
- Artwork not picked up during designated times becomes the property of the Fair.

UNCLAIMED ARTWORK

Unsold artwork left beyond the published return dates will become the property of the Fair.

REQUIREMENTS

ART SIZING REQUIREMENTS

- **Minimum** outside exterior dimensions for paintings, drawings and mixed media are **11" x 14"** and a **maximum** frame dimensions are **5' x 6'**.
- **Minimum** outside exterior dimensions for miniatures are **2" x 2"** and **maximum** outside frame dimensions are **6" x 6" OR 5" x 7"**.
- **Maximum weight** of any one piece is **30lbs** unless prior arrangements are made.
- Artwork that does not meet the required minimum or maximum sizes or weight restriction will not be accepted into the show.

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- "Presentation" is a component of judging
- **All 2-D media must be properly framed or on a cradle, dry and ready to hang with the following exception:**
Gallery -wrapped canvas under 1" in depth must be larger than 24" x 30" to be unframed.
- **Flat canvas boards must be framed.**
- **"Gallery Wrapped" canvas must be either 1" minimum thickness; OR 24" x 30" minimum dimensions AND 1/2" minimum thickness. Miniatures: 1/2" minimum gallery wrapped canvas.**
- **Unframed gallery-wrapped canvas must** have painted edges that are either a continuation of the front painting or a solid color. **Solid white edges are not acceptable.**
- Plastic, glass frames or "poster frames," **will not be accepted.**
- For hanging, use adequate **weight-bearing, woven picture wire ONLY. All wire ends must be finished with painter's or frog tape.**
- Wire must be anchored to frame back, 1/3 down from the top of the frame and wire must be tight, with minimal slack.
- It is recommended that the back of the artwork is finished with paper and tape for a professional appearance when sold.

- **All frames will be thoroughly inspected upon submission.** Frames must be free of scratches, cracks or chips. An entry will need required adjustments to be submitted. After proper adjustments or repairs have been made, pieces may be resubmitted before close of receiving on Saturday, August 8, 2026. On-site alterations requiring new picture wire or any adjustments will be charged a \$5.00 cash fee per artwork.
- **Artists may choose to use glass or an alternate protective layer** (i.e. plexiglass, wax, fixative, varnish). **Vinyl film will not be accepted.** Entries are handled and moved several times during preparation and tear down of the show. Therefore, only sturdy metal or wood frames holding glass can be accepted.
- **A signed waiver may be required at the time of entry for large frames with glass that require special handling.**
- **A legible label including the artist's first and last name and the title of the artwork is required on the back of artwork (lower left side) or underside of sculpture.**

PREPARING YOUR ARTWORK

- **2-D Artwork:** Use D-rings, large screw eyes, or metal frame D-Rings **screwed to the frame with quality picture hanging wire at least 1/3" from top of exterior.**
- **Securely wind the wire so it is not loose or frayed. Cover the wire end with masking or painter's tape.**



- **Not Acceptable: Plastic frames, saw-tooth hangers, wires not attached to the frame, loose wire not tightly wound, small screw eyes, fishing line, electrical wire or corded wire.**



DIVISIONS

Be sure to read and follow the requirements on page 6, to insure your artwork meets the guidelines.

WATERCOLOR OR INK MEDIUMS— DIVISION 301

This division is for two dimensional artwork that includes watercolor, water-based ink and gouache (water-based, opaque) and water based printmaking

- Watercolor must be applied in a transparent technique; ink may be transparent or opaque. Mediums must be applied on paper or canvas.
- Artwork in this division must be affixed to a cradle or framed.
- Giclee or print reproductions are not accepted.

OIL MEDIUMS— DIVISION 302

This division is for two dimensional artwork that use oil-based mediums or oil-based printmaking materials.

- Unframed gallery-wrapped canvas of either 1" minimum thickness; OR 24" x 30" minimum dimensions **AND** 1/2" minimum thickness is accepted in this division. Sides must be finished with non-white paint.
- All other artwork must be framed.
- Giclee or print reproductions are not accepted.

ACRYLIC MEDIUMS— DIVISION 308

This division is for two dimensional artwork that uses acrylic-based mediums.

- Unframed gallery-wrapped canvas of either 1" minimum thickness; OR 24" x 30" minimum dimensions **AND** 1/2" minimum thickness is accepted in this division. Sides must be finished with non-white paint.
- All other artwork must be framed.
- Giclee or print reproductions are not accepted.

DRAWING/DRY MEDIUMS – DIVISION 303

This division is for two dimensional artwork that uses techniques with pen, ink, pencil, charcoal and pastel mediums done in a mark making and/or linear manner. Scratchboard is accepted in this division.

- All artwork in this division must be framed or affixed to a cradle
- Giclee or print reproductions are not accepted

MIXED MEDIA – DIVISION 304

This division is for artwork that is visibly created using a mix of different divisions of media.

- The artwork must contain three or more different categories of medium, in addition to a foundation that the artwork is designed on. Techniques and processes are not considered a medium. Mediums include such things as paint, paper, metals, fabric, wax, etc.

- Photo copies and digital art are not accepted as a medium in this division.
- **All mixed media artwork must be properly framed or suitable for display by hanging.**
- **All mixed media entries must be accompanied by a physical list of all mediums used in the creative process** submitted during intake. The list must include a minimum of three distinctly and visibly different mediums.

SCULPTURE – DIVISION 305

This division is for three dimensional artwork that is **free standing with a stable base or a relief sculpture that has a support for display** and made from art mediums such as metal, fired clay, fabrics, glass, stone or wood.

- Assemblage may be accepted when the components are 85% artist created, excluding the foundation
- Larger art pieces will require pre-approval due to limited space. The artist will be responsible for installing their own artwork at a specific date, if accepted.

DIGITAL ART – DIVISION 306

This division is for two dimensional artwork, created on a computer. Digital art draws upon digital technology as an essential part of the process, based on original artwork digitally created on a computer by the artist. **Digital art begins with a blank canvas and is not based on a photo.**

- Components must be original work digitally created on the computer by the submitting artist.
- **All entries must be accompanied by a printout of a series of 1 inch, minimum, screenshots of your digital layers used, submitted during intake.**

MINIATURE – DIVISION 307

- All two dimensional mediums from the previous divisions are accepted in miniatures.
- **Minimum outside exterior** dimensions for miniatures are 2" x 2" and **maximum outside exterior** dimensions are 6" x 6" **OR** 5" x 7". Miniatures must fit into a pre-measured template at intake. Oversized miniatures will not be accepted.
- Miniatures must be on non-white, 1/2" minimum edge gallery wrapped canvas on cradle, or framed, with a tight wire with minimal slack.
- **All miniatures must be for sale and must be priced at \$200 and under.**
- **If entering multiple miniatures: pieces one and two will be displayed and sold September 4 - 16. Pieces three and four will be displayed and sold September 17 - 27.**

JUDGING AND AWARDS

Judges are selected from professionals or highly accredited amateur artists working within their field of expertise. Neither paid Fair employees nor volunteers are eligible to judge in the department for which they work. Paid Fair employees or volunteers who judge any show or contest outside the department they work for must be pre-approved by their department supervisor. Fair exhibitors, including exhibiting employees, are not eligible to judge.

Judges will determine accepted vs. non-accepted artwork based on Judging Attributes and available display space.

JUDGING ATTRIBUTES

Use of Elements & Principle Elements:

Line Shape, Form, Space, Value, Color, Texture

Principles:

Balance, Emphasis, Proportion, Movement/Rhythm, Repetition, Variety, Harmony, Unity

Uniqueness/Originality Emotional Content:

Professional quality. Ability to move the viewer.

Technical Skills:

Application of materials or complexity/level of digital technology used.

Presentation:

Enhances the artwork.

TOTAL AWARDS

Best of Show	\$400
First Place (each division except miniatures)	\$250
Second Place (each division except miniatures)	\$150
Third Place (each division except miniatures)	\$75
Fourth Place (each division except miniatures)	\$50
Honorable Mention (four each division)	\$25
First Place (miniature only)	\$100
Second Place (miniature only)	\$75
Third Place (miniature only)	\$50
Fourth Place (miniature only)	\$35
Honorable Mention (six - miniature only)	\$25
Directors' Purchase Award	Price of Artwork

JUDGING RESULTS

Award winners will be notified by mail or email prior to the Fair start date.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS AND PREVIEW EVENT

This event is held **by invitation only**. Only award winners and their guest, and those who have received a written invitation should attend.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- **A 25% commission will be deducted from the artist's sale price, on all sold artwork.**
- **Judges will mutually agree on which art pieces are non-accepted.** Available gallery space limits the number of artwork pieces that can be accepted.
- No changes can be made to either the "for sale" status or the price of an entry after the entry is processed at intake. To maintain the integrity of the show, no paintings can be removed until the published release dates (see page 5).
- While we would prefer all work be for sale, we accept Not For Sale (NFS) work. All miniatures must be for sale. Judging is not affected by sale status.
- Multiple pieces entered as a set are to be judged, hung and sold as a set - no exceptions. Due to limited space, up to three-part pieces (triptych) are allowed. **Each piece must be a minimum 11" x 14" with total display dimensions not to exceed a 5'x 6' space.**
- **Please note** - During online registration when you are asked for a "**Description**" of your artwork, we are asking for a brief description of the image itself such as "Portrait of little boy in blue shirt." These descriptions are used to identify your specific work during handling and hanging. When asked for your "**Medium,**" please tell us what actual mediums (oil, watercolor, ink, pencil, pen, etc.) you used to create your piece – not the Division you entered. For Mixed Media entries, our judges need to know the three or more mediums you used, to assist in their evaluation of your work.
- [See step-by-step ONLINE entry registration instructions on page 4.](#) Complete online registration forms and pay online by Sunday, July 26.

DISCLAIMERS

- Although every precaution will be made to safeguard the artwork, the Washington State Fair will not be responsible for theft, damage (including glass breakage) or loss of entries. Each artist acknowledges that their artwork will be displayed in public and there is no guarantee or assurances of any kind for the protection of the artwork.
- **The Fair reserves the right to not accept artwork or remove any artwork from display at any time, for any reason and at their own discretion.**
- Entries cannot be accepted or returned by mail or common carrier.
- Should questions arise concerning the eligibility of an entry, the Fair's decision will be respected as final. The Fair assumes no liability for breaches of copyright by exhibitor.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERMS

ALL CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY, DIVISIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS must be followed to ensure your ENTRIES can be accepted and judged.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Washington State Fair,
Competitive Exhibits Office
(360) 469-1978
or E-mail: CompExhibits@thefair.com

Washington STATE FAIR

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For additional
information, driving directions, concert lineup, etc.:

WASHINGTON STATE FAIR

Website: www.thefair.com

FINE ART SHOW - 2026

