



The **San Diego County Fair's Fine Art Exhibition** invites local and regional artists to showcase their skill and expression in a variety of mediums including painting, drawing, sculpture, digital and mixed media. This juried competition provides artists the chance to receive cash prizes and the unique opportunity to display their work for thousands of fair visitors.

## 2026 Exhibition Timeline

<b>Entry Deadline</b>	Monday, April 27, 2026, by 8pm
Tier 1 Notification Email (Check Spam Folders)	Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Shipped Entries May Arrive	Thursday, May 7 – Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Entry Delivery	Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 10am – 6pm
Fair Dates	Wednesday, June 10 – Sunday, July 5, 2026 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Artist Reception	Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 6:30pm
<b>Entry Pickup</b>	Tuesday, July 7, 2026, 10am-6pm

## Eligibility

- Adult exhibitors must be 18 years old by the Entry Deadline listed above.
- **NEW for 2026:** Youth exhibitors must be between the ages of 13-17 by the Entry Deadline shown.
- Entries must be original work of the exhibitor and created in the last four (4) years.
- Work by two (2) or more artists is *not* eligible.
- Work, or nearly identical work, previously shown at the Fair, regardless of title, is *not* eligible.
- Work created by *generative* Artificial Intelligence (AI), either partially or completely, is *not* eligible.



## Contact Us

Colette King, [Coordinator](#)

Sarah Bricke, [Assistant Coordinator](#)

### San Diego County Fair Entry Office

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014

Office (858) 792-4207 - Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

## 2026 Local Rules

1. Completion of online entry registration shall be deemed acceptance of all rules and permission to use your name, photograph, and images and description of entries in print, digital and other media.
2. Online registration is required for all competitions and one-day contests. Online entries and any required image/document uploads are accepted until the published deadline, which specifies a date and time. Late entries will not be accepted.
3. Once registered, the exhibitor name, entry description, title, and price may not be changed. Substitutions will only be allowed in accordance with current State Rules. Fair Management is not responsible for errors on entry forms which may lead to elimination or disqualification of an entry.
4. Processing fees must be paid online at the time of registration. Processing fees are non-refundable.
5. Exhibitors must be living at the time the online entry is submitted.
6. All non-livestock/non-agricultural entries must be the creative work of the exhibitor (whose name appears on the entry registration), be in good taste, and suitable for family viewing. Fair Management reserves the right to disqualify any entry/exhibit it deems objectionable or not in accordance with competition standards.
7. If an entry is disqualified after judging is complete, no changes will be made to the status of awards given for other entries.
8. Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining necessary permission from models and/or to use material in their entry that is considered copyrighted.
9. No entry will be accepted should the exhibitor describe the conditions under which he/she will exhibit, or the exhibit will be displayed.
10. Judges are selected for their expertise in the divisions or classes they evaluate. New judges may be appointed each year, and judging assignments may vary annually based on the needs of each competition.
11. If a coordinator or judge deems an entry to be in the incorrect category, division, class, etc., he or she may direct the Entry Office to move that entry as appropriate. The Entry Office may combine divisions or classes to create an adequate judging pool.



12. Fair Management reserves the right to limit entries, and display thereof, to facilities available and to cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.
13. Entries must be delivered on the date(s) and times specified. Entries will not be accepted before or after the stated entry delivery date. All accepted exhibits must remain on display and shall not be removed until the stated entry pick up date. Any exhibit not picked up on the specified date becomes the property of the San Diego County Fair and will be disposed of promptly.
14. All exhibits are entered and shown at the owner's risk. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits, but in no event will the 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) be responsible for any injury or loss which may occur or for the actions of third parties. Insurance, if desired, should be obtained by the exhibitor at his/her own expense.
15. Any person who violates any Local, State, or Department rule or displays unethical conduct will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) may order.
16. To ensure reliable award notification, exhibitors are responsible for submitting all address, phone number and email address updates promptly in writing to [entry@sdfair.com](mailto:entry@sdfair.com) or Entry Department, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014.
17. Premium money will be paid per the recorded placings in the official judging reports rather than the ribbon attached to the exhibit.
18. Donated Award recipients will be selected per the instructions given on the Donated Award Confirmation Form submitted by the donor.
19. Premium, donated cash award, and auction checks will be made payable to the exhibitor as listed on the online entry registration. Checks will be mailed within 30 days after the close of the Fair to the address shown on the online entry registration, or as updated by the exhibitor via written notification to the Entry Office. Checks not cashed within six (6) months from the date of issue will be forfeited. Replacement checks may be subject to a stop payment fee.
20. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) is required by the Internal Revenue Service to report any premium payments totaling \$600 or more. Exhibitors whose awards meet or exceed this amount must submit a W-9 form before their check can be issued.
21. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) management reserves the right to amend or add to these rules and assumes no liability or responsibility not herein expressed.

California State Rules apply and are available [here](#).



## Entry Limit

Three (3) entries per exhibitor per class.

Exhibitors may enter as many classes as desired.

## Entry Fees

\$20 per entry. Entry fees are payable online with a credit card and are not refundable.

## Fair Tickets

Each exhibitor will receive two (2) Fair Entry Tickets.

## How to Enter

1. After reading all entry materials, click the “Enter Now” link below to go to the ShoWorks Entry Homepage.
2. Register as an **Exhibitor**.
3. Select the appropriate division and class and input the required information. (See “Divisions and Classes” below for a list of all divisions and classes.)
  - A. In the Subject Matter field, include an image description. For example, “Baby with dog” or “Purple house.” The character limit is 100 and includes spaces.
  - B. In the Materials/Methods field, include **only** the medium(s) and method(s) used. For example, “Acrylic paint and fabric on Masonite substrate,” or “Assembled, embossed porcelain clay with high-fired glaze finish.” Character limit is 100 and includes spaces.
  - C. In the Sale Price field, enter the piece’s purchase price, or “NFS” if the piece is not for sale. (See Sale of Entries.)
  - D. In the Social Media field, please enter your preferred social media contact (optional).
4. Review your entry before completing registration to ensure that you have entered the correct division and class for each entry.
5. Click the check-out button and pay for all entries.
6. Read the confirmation statement and type YES. **Do not click multiple times**, as it will charge you each time.
7. You will be prompted to upload your image(s) AFTER you pay. Digital image(s) of entries must be submitted before the entry deadline. Ensure uploaded images match the entry division, class and title for each entry. (See Photographing Your Entry for Upload.)

**If you plan to make changes to your entries or need to leave ShoWorks at any time, SAVE YOUR CART before exiting out.**

For additional help with entering and uploading images, review this detailed step-by-step guide: [Entry Tutorial](#)

**Still have questions? Please call or email the Entry Office.**

**Phone:** (858) 792-4207, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm



## Photographing Your Entry for Upload

**Digital photo submission of your entry is required before the entry deadline.**

### **Image Format**

- Acceptable file formats are .jpeg, .jpg, or .png of **6MB maximum file size**.
- iPhone users must change default HEIC camera setting to JPEG or convert the image.
- RGB color space (CMYK files will be converted to RGB by the system)
- Make sure the images are rotated to the upright position/orientation.
- Images may be in horizontal or vertical orientation.
- No digital enhancement allowed.

### **Two-Dimensional Artwork Entries**

Upload one (1) high quality digital image of each entry piece, showing only the image (no frame or mat) in the correct orientation, (vertical or horizontal) that gives a complete impression of the artwork. Your uploaded digital image will be used for Tier 1 judging.

### **Three-Dimensional Artwork Entries**

Upload three (3) separate high quality digital images of each entry piece including a front view, side view and close-up (macro) view to provide a complete impression of the artwork. Your uploaded digital images will be used for Tier 1 judging.

## **Sale of Entries**

Exhibitors wishing to sell their entry must enter the sale price and preferred social media contact on the online registration form. Price and social media information will be printed on the entry tag for display in the exhibit. All sales must be negotiated and completed directly between the exhibitor and the buyer.

No business cards or personal advertisements will be displayed in the exhibit.



## Judging

The Exhibition of Fine Art is a two-tier, juried competition that uses the American system of judging.

**Tier 1 Judging** of exhibitors' uploaded digital images determines which entries will advance to Tier 2 judging. Exhibitors will be notified via email with the results of the Tier 1 judging per the Entry Timeline. Entries advancing to Tier 2 judging must be prepared and delivered per the requirements described herein.

**Tier 2 Judging** takes place onsite, where judges view the entry in person and select award winners.

### Judging Criteria

Entries are judged on composition, technical quality, visual impact, creativity, and presentation.

### Judging Results

Results will be announced at the Exhibition of Fine Art Awards Reception and posted on the San Diego County Fair's website by the second week of the Fair.

## Entry Delivery & Pickup

Only entries accepted to Tier 2 judging may be delivered to the Fairgrounds. Please refer to the Exhibition Timeline for in-person delivery and shipping acceptance dates. If accepted to Tier 2, exhibitors will be emailed additional delivery and pick up instructions including a map showing access to the Fairgrounds.

A claim check will be issued to each exhibitor upon entry delivery and must be presented at the time of entry pick up. If an exhibitor is unable to pick up their artwork, they may arrange for another person to bring in their claim check with a signed written authorization from the exhibitor.



**Entry Shipping** - The 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA (San Diego County Fair) is not responsible for lost or delayed shipments and assumes no responsibility for damage to shipped artwork. For return of shipped entries, a pre-paid return label from the shipper (UPS or USPS) must be included with the entry.

**Ship to:** San Diego County Fair

Ag & Ed Department • Exhibition of Fine Art  
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.  
Del Mar, CA 92014

## How to Prepare Your Entry for Delivery

Affix the digital tag included in your acceptance e-mail on the back of your entry. The tag has a thumbnail of the accepted image - it should be placed in the orientation that the work should hang.

### Accepted 2-D work:

- Artwork shall be no more than 5 feet (60 inches) in any direction excluding the frame or supports (including total size of multiple-related panels).
- Multiple-part works shall be submitted and judged as one entry and must have each part labeled, along with a diagram for hanging or assembly (photograph recommended).
- All artworks must be securely framed and ready to hang. Frames must be equipped with wires for hanging (sawtooth hangers are not acceptable). Frames without wire for hanging will not be accepted.
- Gallery-wrapped, boxed canvases with the image painted, wrapped around the edge of the stretcher frame, and stapled on the backside, are acceptable.
- Artwork on paper must be under protective clear acrylic sheeting (i.e. plexiglass). Glass will not be accepted, except for charcoal or pastel entries.

### Accepted 3-D work:

- Artwork that is independent, freestanding, and viewed from all sides shall be no more than 7 feet (84 inches) tall and 5 feet (60 inches) wide or deep.



## Awards

Award checks will be mailed within two (2) weeks of the last day of the Fair. Please submit address updates to the [Entry Office](#) in a timely manner.

**The following will be awarded:**

1st Place – Awarded in each class	\$200 and Rosette
2nd Place - Awarded in each class	\$175 and Rosette
3rd Place - Awarded in each class	\$150 and Rosette
Best of Show - awarded to the top entry selected from the 1st Place winners across all classes within each division	\$250 and Rosette

**Special Awards**

San Diego Award	\$250 and Rosette
Coordinator's Award	\$250 and Rosette
Don Diego Award	\$250 and Rosette
Honorable Mention ribbons may be awarded at judges' discretion.	
People's Choice – Awarded daily by popular vote of Fair guests.	Ribbon

**Donated Awards:** Cash, Gift Card or In-Kind Gift, and Rosette

Mingei International Museum	3 Museum Passes
San Diego Watercolor Society	\$125 Cash Award in Watercolor
North County Society of Fine Art	\$100 Cash Award



## Fine Art Divisions and Classes

### DIVISION 1001: TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART

**Class 001** Fair Theme: **Once Upon a Fair**

**Class 002** Acrylic–Representational, People

**Class 003** Acrylic–Representational, Animals

**Class 004** Acrylic–Representational, Cityscapes

**Class 005** Acrylic–Representational, Landscapes

**Class 006** Acrylic–Representational, Waterscapes

**Class 007** Acrylic–Representational, Still Life & Florals

**Class 008** Oil–Representational, People

**Class 009** Oil–Representational, Animals

**Class 010** Oil–Representational, Cityscapes

**Class 011** Oil–Representational, Landscapes

**Class 012** Oil– Representational, Waterscapes

**Class 013** Oil–Representational, Still Life & Florals

**Class 014** Watercolor–Representational, People

**Class 015** Watercolor–Representational, Animals

**Class 016** Watercolor–Representational, Cityscapes

**Class 017** Watercolor–Representational, Landscapes

**Class 018** Watercolor– Representational, Waterscapes

**Class 019** Watercolor–Representational, Still Life & Florals

**Class 020** Non-Representational–All Media

**Class 021** Asian Brush

**Class 022** Drawing–Black & White

**Class 023** Drawing–Color and Printmaking

**Class 024** Pastel–People & Animals

**Class 025** Pastel–Land/Cityscapes, Still Life, Florals

**Class 026** Mixed Media, including Stained Glass, Collage, and Recycled Art

**Class 027** Digital Art (When registering, state in the Materials/Methods field the software and process used in creating the artwork. No generative Artificial Intelligence per Eligibility Requirements.)



**DIVISION 1002: THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART**

**3-D art must be freestanding, not wall-mounted. Wall-mounted art must be entered in the appropriate 2-D class. Stained glass must be entered in Class 026- Mixed Media.**

**Class 028** Fair Theme: Once Upon a Fair

**Class 029** Sculptures

**Class 030** Ceramics

**Class 031** Other 3-D not listed, including Recycled Art

Note: All Theme entries in both **Class 001** and **Class 028** will be judged as one Fair Theme classes.

**NEW FOR 2026!**

**DIVISION 1003: YOUTH TWO DIMENSIONAL ART**

**Class 001** Oil or Acrylic

**Class 002** Watercolor, Pastel, or Drawing