

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

NJ State Senior Citizens Annual Juried Art Contest & Exhibition

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- County:** Any artist, age 60 or over, currently residing in New Jersey, may submit artwork completed within the three years immediately prior to his or her County Senior Art Show.
- Entries may **not** have been previously entered in prior County Senior Art Shows or in the New Jersey Senior Citizens Art Show.
- State:** Artwork that has won First Place at 2019 County Senior Citizen Art Shows are automatically eligible to advance to the New Jersey Senior Art Show. **Only ONE ENTRY per artist may be entered.**
- Entries must have been created since **February, 2016**, and cannot have been shown in any past NJ Senior Citizen Art Shows.
- Only County Coordinators** may submit work from their County show to the State Senior Art Show. Artists may *not* submit work directly to the State Show. Participating Counties may submit **one** professional and **one** non-professional entry in each of the following 11 categories: acrylic, craft, digital art, mixed media, oil, pastel, photography, print, sculpture, watercolor, and works on paper (drawing, etc.). Only the **first place winners** from County shows are accepted for the State Show.
- Optimally, there should be at least 2-3 entries (on the County level) for a first place winner to be selected in that category. However, if there is only a SINGLE entry in a category, it is the County Juror's discretion to award First Place (if that Juror judges the work as deserving to represent the County at the State Show) or to award an Honorable Mention.

CATEGORIES

1. **Acrylic Painting**
2. **Craft** - one-of-a-kind **original creations only**, no craft kits or molds
3. **Digital (Computer) Art** - artwork created using computer graphics software (does *not* include digital photographs)
4. **Mixed Media** – art that combines two or more media (often non-traditional), and no one of the media clearly predominates; includes collage and assemblage
5. **Oil Painting**
6. **Pastel** - includes chalk (soft) and oil pastel

7. **Print** – all print forms including – but not limited to – etching, linoleum block, lithograph, woodcut, monoprint, silkscreen, collagraph
8. **Photography** - includes color, black & white or tinted photographs taken with a film-based or digital camera
9. **Sculpture** - work designed in 3-dimensions, carved or constructed in any medium, abstract or figurative
10. **Watercolor Painting** - includes gouache (note: traditional watercolor often includes light pencil work and/or ink. They are still considered “Watercolor” – NOT “mixed media”)
11. **Works on Paper** - includes hand-drawn works in mediums including: charcoal, pencil, colored pencil, graphite, ink, pen, crayon, or stylus of any sort

ARTIST CLASSIFICATION – PROFESSIONAL OR NON-PROFESSIONAL?

Professional: an artist who meets 2 or more of these qualifications:

- a) sells or has sold artwork through commercial channels (including galleries, on-line galleries, craft shows, art shows, etc.);
- b) has been exhibiting their work for 2 or more years in professional galleries and/or in professional art exhibits; **
- c) has had work selected in 2 or more Juried art or craft shows; **
- d) has received 2 or more awards for their artwork; **
- e) holds (or has held) professional membership in an artist or craftsman’s guild or association.

Non-Professional: an artist who does not meet 2 or more of the above criteria

**** EXCEPTION:** Artists who **only** enter their County Senior Art Show and **NEVER** exhibit their work in any other show or venue do not have to identify themselves as a Professional Artist **unless they have won First Place in their category 3 or more times** – in that case, they should identify themselves as “Professional.”

ARTWORK / DISPLAY RULES

- Hanging artwork, photos or crafts, **may be no more than 30" and no less than 10" in any dimension (including matting and framing).**
- Sculpture or 3-D crafts **may not exceed 20" in any dimension** (measurements must include any base for the sculpture). Work **should not exceed 40 pounds in weight.**
- All artwork must be the *original* creation of the artist. No reproductions (including *giclée* or other digital print copies) of original paintings or mixed media work will be accepted.

- No work made using kits or direct copies of another person's artwork will be accepted.
- Works must be delivered to the State Show, "show-ready." Any 2-D work must be matted, framed and wired (with screw eyes) ready for hanging. Paintings on canvas must be wired for hanging and the edges should be painted or finished. **Works on canvas do not need to be framed.** The 2-D artwork should be protected where necessary with plexiglas, mylar, glass, or other clear protective material. All 2-D work must be properly labeled on the back. All 3-D work should have the label lightly attached where it is readily accessible during intake.
- Use of Plexiglas or acrylic (not glass) is strongly recommended for 2-D work to avoid damage to artwork. Plexiglas is required for any 2-D pieces over 24" in any dimension.
- **Entries valued at \$400.00 or more must be privately insured by the artist –through their homeowners/rental insurance or through a fine art rider. The name of that insurance company MUST BE PROVIDED to the State Show administrator.**
- Every effort should be made to ensure that work is correctly categorized. Work that is incorrectly categorized may be moved to the correct category (or risk being taken out of competition altogether) at the discretion of the State administrators.
- Sometime towards the start of the State Show, each artist with work in the Show will receive an invitation to the Closing Reception & Awards Ceremony. They should be aware that no more than ONE person may accompany them to that reception. Artists wishing to visit the show with multiple guests may do so during the regular visiting hours during the Show run *before* the Closing Reception.

IMPORTANT: The work displayed at the State Show is not insured. Every attempt is made to preserve, secure and protect each entry, and the artwork is handled with great care. However, neither the host venue nor the sponsoring organizations assume responsibility for any loss or damages incurred. The artist accepts all risk in entering this show. Entry of work in the NJ State Senior Citizen Art Show signifies the artist's agreement to & compliance with this disclaimer.

All artwork entered in the New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show must remain in the show for the duration of the exhibit, and may NOT be removed prior to the close of the 2019 Awards Ceremony and Reception. On the day of the Awards Ceremony & Reception, all artwork must be officially checked out by a County Coordinator or an appointed substitute and only they may distribute that artwork to artists once it has been officially signed off on by the Coordinator.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Do “Digital Photographs” go in the *Digital/Computer Art* category?

A. No. Photographs taken by a camera of any sort (including digital camera) should be entered in the Photography category – *unless* the artist has manipulated and digitally altered the image beyond any outcome they could have gotten using a traditional darkroom setting.

Q. Are Watercolor paintings that include some ink or pencil considered Mixed Media?

A. No. Traditionally, watercolorists have often used graphite (pencil) and ink in their work. Watercolor pieces should only be included in Mixed Media if the artist combines some watercolor painting with other media such as collage, decoupage, oil pastels or hand-stitching, for example.

Q. If a sculpture is made from more than one material, is it considered Mixed Media?

A. No. Sculptures are often made from several different media. With few exceptions, most 3-D art object should be entered either as Sculpture or Craft.

Q. What about paintings that include small photos or other materials – Mixed Media?

A. Not necessarily. If a painting is *almost entirely* created in oils or acrylic, for example – and the artist includes tiny elements of another media, such as tiny photos, stencils, or small pieces of paper or cloth, it can still be entered as an Oil or Acrylic Painting, as long as the clear majority (more than 85%) of the piece is painted with oil or acrylic.

Q. What’s the difference between Sculpture and Craft?

A. Traditionally, if an object is functional – if it is designed to be used (like a bowl or vase) or worn (like jewelry) or to showcase mastery in a specific craft field (such as wood-working, needlepoint, quilting, leather-work) – it is considered a CRAFT. Sculpture is more likely to be created to illustrate or express something, and generally not designed to be functional. A craft item can often be duplicated, with slight variations. A sculpture is rarely duplicated by the artist unless it is cast and recreated in editions.

Q. Why must artwork be done within the past three years?

A. This Show celebrates **current artists** who happen to be senior citizens. Requiring work to have been done within the past 3 years ensures that the artist submitting the work is still actively pursuing her or his artistic passion, rather than taking older artwork out of storage.

Q. If there only ONE or two pieces are entered in a Category on the County level, can one be selected to go on to the State Show? Or, does that ONE automatically have to go on to the State Show?

A. In the past, rules required that there be 3 or more entries in a category on the County level for a First Place winner to be selected from that category (to go on to the State). *In 2016, the NJSCA approved a change in that requirement.* Even if there is only a single entry in a category on the County level, the Juror/s of the County show have the *option* of awarding it First Place if it is an artwork of High Merit. **NOTE:** Jurors are not *required* to advance a solo piece in a category to the State. County Jurors may decide to award only an Honorable Mention to a solo piece that s/he believes is not sufficiently strong to receive a First Place award. It is *highly recommended*, however, that in categories with 3 or more entries, the Juror select a First Place winner to move on to State.