

VISUAL ARTS

VISUAL ARTS includes many art forms that are visual in nature. Through combined elements like color, shape, and texture, visual artwork is not only pleasing to look at but also expresses an idea or thought. *Collections are not accepted.*

To Portray Your Original Artwork

- **Consider the following accepted forms of visual arts:**
 - Architecture (2D/3D), Carpentry, Ceramics, Collages (Combined Non-photographic and/or Photographic Elements), Digital Art and Graphics (Drawings/Paintings/Illustration), Crafts, Design, Dioramas, Drawing, Fiberwork, Jewelry, Kites, Metal Etching/Punch Work, Mobiles, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Wind Chimes
- **Avoid the following unacceptable forms of visual:** reproductions or enlargements of other artwork.
- **To show a clear relation to the theme,** use art form, color, texture, shape, proportion, etc.





Entry Checklist & Reminders

National-Level Requirements:

- **Student Artist:** The artist (student submitting entry) is a person who captures their own thoughts and ideas to create a visual piece of art.
- **2D artwork** (e.g., painting): Must *include at least 1 digital image* of artwork for judging. Dimensions must not exceed 24x30 inches, including matting. Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material. Framed artwork is not accepted.*
 - *Ohio PTA will not be accepting physical visual arts entries this year. Submissions of 2D artwork must include one (1) digital image of the original work. Submissions of 2D artwork may include two (2) digital images, if the artist considers any matting/mounting as an integral part of the artistic message. Digital images should be at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution.
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- **3D artwork** (e.g., sculpture): Must *include at least 3 digital images* of artwork at different angles for judging.*
 - *Ohio PTA will not be accepting physical visual arts entries this year. Submissions of 3D artwork must include at least three (3) digital images of the original work. Submissions of 3D artwork may include up to five (5) digital images. Digital images should be at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution.
- **Accepted Digital Formats:** JPEG, JPG, PNG.

Reminders:

- **Reproductions or Replications:** Inspiration may come from existing artworks or artistic styles, but the final piece must be entirely new, and reinterpret the elements that compose the piece (e.g., color, shape, size, medium, values, message, etc.).
- **Photographic Collages:** Collage entries are artistic compositions made by physically combining various materials (such as paper, cloth or wood) to create a new image. Collages may include photos, but should include other material and elements that visually transform the photographic elements.

Category Tips: Artist Statement and Title

Titles and artist statements can be useful in sharing details specific to your artwork that help capture your creative process and theme interpretation. Consider the following:

- **Describe** the style (abstract, realism, impressionism, surrealism, etc.) and how it aligns with the theme, your interpretation, or creative vision.

- **Mention significant steps** in your creative process, including medium, techniques and influences.
- **Explore** how your goals, artwork, creative ideas, and inspiration evolved during the creation process.
- **Explain** important symbols and how they connect to the theme or contribute to the overall meaning of the piece.

Image Quality Tips

Tips for creating, finalizing and saving a high-quality image file for your submission:

- **Sizing and quality:** Digital images should be at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution, so they are clear and visible to reviewers.
- **Take clear photos:** Make sure your photos are clear and simple. Avoid any extra blank space or distractions around the artwork.
- **Avoid reflections:** If your artwork has shiny surfaces, be mindful of reflections. Adjust the lighting or angle to minimize glare.
- **Fill the frame:** Try to fill the camera frame with your artwork, leaving only a small border around it. Do not use digital zoom because it lowers the image quality. Instead, move your camera closer.
- **Use diffused light:** Natural light on a cloudy day is best. If using artificial lights, place a white sheet between the lights and the artwork. Avoid using your camera's flash as it can change the colors and create shadows.
- **Photographing 2D art:** Position the camera so it faces the artwork directly. The lens should be at the center of the artwork and not tilted. Ensure the lighting is even across the entire piece.
- **Photographing 3D art:** Take photos from different angles to show all sides of the artwork. To show texture and depth, use a stronger light on one side to create slight shadows.
- **Take multiple shots:** Take several photos and check them as you go. Make small changes to the lighting or setup to get the best shots.

Copyright and Plagiarism

Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of copyrighted material is not acceptable, including any copyrighted cartoon characters, material downloaded from the internet, and copyrighted photographs/stock images/artwork, except for the following:

- Entries may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece, and/or

is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

- Visual Arts entries may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine or digital media clippings, and/or type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those portions of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art.

Digital Tools and Technology

Digital technology and/or software may not provide the primary design and/or concept, but can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry. Entries may not be exclusively created with generative tools (e.g., AI) and/or composed exclusively of elements generated or provided by the technology platform.

Accepted:

- Prototyping an original idea, design, or concept with generative tools before creating the final submission.
- Using digital tools to draw, illustrate, and/or create an original entry.

Not Accepted:

- Creating an entry composed of generative elements, and/or unoriginal, downloaded materials.
- Entries composed with generative elements and/or unoriginal, downloaded materials, including templates, formulas, graphics, drawings, paintings, etc.

Guidelines:

- **Describe Use of Technology:** If digital technology is used, *entrants must use the “Additional Details” field to provide a brief description* of the tools and methods used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).
- **Verify Prohibited Technology:** Check if your state PTA prohibits the use of any digital platforms and/or methods (i.e., artificial intelligence). *Ohio PTA does not prohibit the use of digital platforms beyond permitted usage stated in the National PTA Entry, Category, and Division Guidelines.