

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

NJ State Senior Citizens Annual Juried Art Contest & Exhibition

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

County:

Any artist residing in New Jersey, age 60 or over, may submit artwork to her or his County Senior Art Show. Work must have been completed within three years immediately prior to the Show.

Entries may **not** have been entered or shown in prior County Senior Art Shows or in prior New Jersey Senior Citizens Art Shows.

[NOTE: Occasionally, there is only a SINGLE entry in a category. If this happens at your County Show, it is your Juror/s' discretion to award First Place if they believe the work deserves to represent the County at the State Show or to award an Honorable Mention. Although Counties may choose to let artists enter more than one piece, only **ONE ENTRY per artist may be entered in the State Show.**

State:

All artwork that has won First Place at any of the 2021 County Senior Citizen Art Shows is automatically eligible to advance to the New Jersey Senior Art Show (*except that artists may only have ONE piece submitted to the State show*).

County Coordinators submit their County's winning work to the State Senior Art Show. Only **first place winners** from a County's 2021 Senior Art Show may be entered in the State Show. **One** professional and **one** non-professional entry in each of the following 11 categories may be entered: acrylic, craft, digital art, mixed media, oil, pastel, photography, print, sculpture, watercolor, and works on paper (drawing, etc.) may be entered per County.

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: any 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 36" for 2021 only; work smaller than 10" in any dimension may be included this year.**
- Sculpture or 3-D crafts **may not exceed 36" in any dimension** for the 2021 online show (measurements must include any base for the sculpture).
- Artwork must be the *original* creation of the artist. No reproductions of original paintings or mixed media work will be accepted (including *giclée* or other digital print copies). – Of course, digital prints are accepted in Photography and Digital Arts categories.
- No work made using kits or direct copies of another person’s artwork will be accepted.

2021 New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show Guidelines

- Of course, for the virtual exhibit, work does not NEED to be framed – but it does need to be presented/photographed in a way that represents the high quality of the artwork, itself, and is a credit to both the exhibiting artist and the County the art will be representing. It's recommended that 2-D work be matted, at the least, before it is photographed. Every effort should be made to photograph both 2D and 3D work against a neutral background so the work shows up well.
- 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.
- All participating artists will receive an email invitation and link to the 2021 Closing Reception & Awards Ceremony. They may forward the link to as many people as they wish. They may also share the website information with friends and family members who wish to view the show online.

IMPORTANT: Prices will not be listed with artwork this year. If an artist wishes to make their work available for sale, we will include their email address with their art so that an interested party can contact them directly. The artist assumes complete responsibility for ALL sales (including – but not limited to: payment arrangements, plans for shipping/pick-up of purchased artwork and any sales taxes they may incur from sales and/or sales negotiations.

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 with some ink or pencil used considered Mixed Media?

A. No. Watercolorists have often use pencil or ink drawings as part of their work. These are NOT “Mixed Media” works.

Q. If a sculpture is made from more than one material, is it automatically 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 in the Sculpture or Craft category.

Q. Are 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 photos, stencils, or small pieces of cloth in a small part of the painting it may 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, a beautiful functional object – one designed to be used (like a bowl, vase, quilt) or worn (clothing, jewelry) or is made to showcase mastery in a specific craft field (such as wood-working, needlepoint, leather-work) – is considered a CRAFT. A sculpture is more likely to illustrate or express something, and is 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 are 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 artwork out of storage.

Q. If there are only 1 or 2 pieces in a Category at the County level does that ONE automatically go on to the State Show?

A. Past rules required that 3 or more entries had to be 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, that requirement changed.* Now, if there is only a single entry in a category on the County level, your County Juror has the *option* of selecting it as First Place if it is an artwork of High Merit. **NOTE:** Jurors are not *required* to advance a solo piece (or one of two pieces) in a category to the State. 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.

Q. What if I have more questions?

A. Call or email Tricia Fagan any time tfagan@mercercounty.org or 609-989-6418.