

Art Show 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-of-residence's Senior Art Show.
- ❖ Artists may only enter in *one* County show. Multiple entries may disqualify them from having their work in the State Senior Art Show.
- ❖ Work must have been completed within three years immediately prior to the Show (to enter the 2026 Senior Art Show, work must have been completed between April 2022, to the present).
- ❖ Entries may not have been entered or shown in any prior County Senior Art Shows or in prior New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Shows.

[NOTE: ONE ENTRY per artist may be entered]

***IMPORTANT: The artwork featured in the County Show at Ocean County College is displayed for exhibition purposes only. However, any buyer that is interested will have the opportunity to purchase the artwork after the conclusion of the New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show.**

Liability: Ocean County College will make every attempt to preserve, secure and protect each entry; however, the supporting organizations will NOT assume responsibility for loss or damage incurred. Entry in the show signifies agreement and compliance with this waiver. Each artist assumes full responsibility for his or her work at all times.

State:

- ❖ All awarded 1st place winners will advance to the New Jersey State Senior Citizen Art 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.).

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. Pastels - include 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 the following qualifications:

- ❖ sells or has sold artwork through commercial channels (including galleries, on-line galleries, craft shows, art shows, etc.)
- ❖ has been exhibiting their work for 2 or more years in professional galleries and/or in professional art exhibits
- ❖ has had work selected in 2 or more Juried art or craft shows
- ❖ has received 2 or more awards for their artwork
- ❖ holds (or has held) professional membership in an artist or craftsperson'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 3 2026 New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show Guidelines

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

- All 2-D artwork (framed art, photos or crafts wired to hang) may be no larger than 30" or smaller than 10" in any dimension.
- Sculpture or other 3-D crafts may not exceed 20" in any dimension (measurements must include any base for the sculpture) and may not weigh more than 40 pounds.
- All art must be the *original* work of art. No reproductions of paintings, drawings, etc., will be accepted (including *giclée* or other digital print copies*). [* Of course, entries in the Photography or Digital Arts categories may be digital prints.]
- No work made using kits or direct copies of another person's artwork can be accepted.
- All 2-D work must be framed, wired and ready to hang.
- Any 3-D piece with a base must be *securely fastened* to that base to be entered.
- It's recommended that artists photograph their 2-D work before it is framed, to avoid a glare. Artists should try 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.
- Plexiglas is suggested for all 2-D work, when possible, and is required for pieces more than 24" in any dimension to avoid accidental damage
- Participating artists will receive a hard copy invitation to the 2026 Reception & Awards Ceremony, as well as an email invite to the online version of the show.
- All artwork valued at \$400 or more MUST be insured by the artist – either as part of their homeowner's insurance or under a special arts insurance rider.
- Artwork valued at \$399 or less is not required to be insured by the artist. 2026 New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show Guidelines 4

***IMPORTANT: First-place winners will have the opportunity for potential interest from buyers in their artwork at the New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show. No commission will be charged. The NJSAS staff will forward all purchase inquiries directly to the artist via email. Artists are fully responsible for managing their own sales, including payment arrangements, shipping or pickup of sold artwork, and any applicable sales tax obligations.**

Jurying/Entry Notes

Notes for your Jurors:

If there are three or more entries in any category (oil, pastel, craft, etc.), a First-Place winner *must* be selected to move on to the State Show in that category.

If a category has only one or two entries, it is the Juror/s' option to either award First Place to a piece if they believe it should represent the County at the State Show. If not, they should consider awarding an Honorable Mention.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

- ❖ 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?

- ❖ 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?

- ❖ No. Sculptures are often made from several different media. With few exceptions, most 3-D art objects should be entered either in the Sculpture or Craft category.

Q. Are paintings that include small photos or other materials “Mixed Media”?

- ❖ Not necessarily. If a painting is *almost entirely* created in oils or acrylic, 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?

- ❖ 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 woodworking, needlepoint, leatherwork) – 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?

- ❖ 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* goes on to the State Show?

- ❖ If there is only a single entry in a category on the County level, your *County Juror/s* have the *option* of selecting that entry 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. If the Juror believes a piece (or both pieces) are not sufficiently strong to receive a First or Second Place award, Jurors may decide to award only an Honorable Mention to the solo piece (or top piece, if there are two). In categories with 3 or more entries, the Juror should be required to select a First-Place winner to move on to State.

Q. What if I have more questions?

- ❖ Call or email your County Coordinator