



We're excited to announce the
2026 Annual Senior Citizen Art Show,
 hosted at **Ocean County College!**

This special event celebrates the creativity of Ocean County residents aged 60 and older.



Online Registration Is Preferred

Visit our [website](#) to register!

If you are unable to do online registration, please call Charity, County Art Coordinator for more details at 732-929-2091

Registration closes May 22, 2026

You can review the **Art Show Flyer and Entry Guidelines** on our website. If you have questions, call 732-929-2091 and ask for Charity.



Important Dates

Artwork Drop-Off
Wednesday
June 3rd
10am to 2pm

Art Show Viewing
June 8 - June 25
8am to 5pm (M-F)
***Closed June 19**

Awards Ceremony
Friday, June 26
1pm to 3pm

Artwork Pick-Up
Friday, June 26 after
show or Monday
June 29
(10am to 2pm)



OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

1 College Drive
 Toms River, NJ
 Jay and Linda Grunin
 Performing Arts Academy



Ocean County Annual Senior Citizen Art Show Eligibility and Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- ❖ Any artist residing in Ocean County, age 60 or over, may submit one entry of artwork for their Senior Citizen 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.
[NOTE: ONE ENTRY per artist may be entered]
- ❖ 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 2023, 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.
- ❖ All artwork **must be wired** (cannot use command strips or sawhooks) and must be ready to hang and please bring all 3 labels on the day of drop-off.
- ❖ Artwork that enters 1st place at this year's county Senior Citizen Art Show will be automatically eligible to advance to the New Jersey State Senior Citizens Annual Juried Art Contest & Exhibition.

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 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 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **The County of Ocean and Ocean County College do not insure artwork and do not assume responsibility for any 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.**
- ❖ ***IMPORTANT: The artwork showcased in the County Show at Ocean County College is presented solely for exhibition purposes. However, artwork designated for sale by potential buyers will be instructed to contact the artists directly.**

AWARDS

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 Judges' 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. Placement awards will be first, second, third and on honorable mention as determined by the number of entries per category. The judges' decision will be final and announced at the Awards Ceremony.

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 Judges* have the *option* of selecting that entry as First Place if it is an artwork of High Merit.

NOTE: County Judges are not *required* to advance a solo piece (or one of two pieces) in a category to the State. If the Judge believes a piece (or both pieces) are not sufficiently strong to receive a First or Second Place award, Judges 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 Judges should be required to select a First-Place winner to move on to State.

**A Big Thank-You to all the artists' for being a part of the
2026 Annual Senior Citizen Art Show!
Your creativity and spirit will make this year's event truly
unforgettable!**



Any questions you may have, please call or email me

**Charity Yezzi, Ocean County Art Coordinator
Ocean County Office of Senior Services
1005 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753
Phone: 732-929-2091 Email: cyezzi@co.ocean.nj.us**