

# VISUAL ART CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Categorizing your art can be confusing at times, so to help you correctly identify your art entry, we have created a few definitions and guidelines to help you on your way. The category terms are specific and we ask that you **ONLY** use the terms bolded below. Be sure that your piece is entered correctly so that your art is given the regard it deserves in this contest. We have defined them to help you, but if you should have any questions, please contact us.

**Drawing Categories:** These categories use a pencil or pen-like apparatus to apply the material vs. painting, which uses a brush or painting apparatus to apply the material.

**Charcoal and Pastel (drawings):** Charcoal drawings use just that, charcoal, to draw on paper. Pastel drawings are soft, chalky, (or oily) drawing material, much like charcoal, but also comes in colors. It can be textural when applied heavily. If you use a painting tool to apply the material, it should probably be under one of the painting categories. If using oil pastels, be sure that they are not listed as oil/acrylic in the category line. They should be correctly identified as "Charcoal & Pastel." Chalk drawing is included in this category.

**Monochromatic Drawing:** Having or appearing to have only one color, the artwork is classified as "monochromatic." A medium of art making that is two-dimensional and involves putting marks or lines on paper. The materials used include pencil, pen and ink, crayons, marker and colored pencil. If your art is a combination and the majority of the piece is made using the above materials, it should be a drawing; however, if you use a decoupage or add other elements to it, the piece should be classified as mixed media.

**Multi-colored Drawing:** A medium of art making that is two-dimensional and involves putting marks or lines on paper. The materials used include pencil, pen and ink, crayons, marker and colored pencil. If your art is a combination and the majority of the piece is made using the above materials, it should be a drawing; however, if you use a decoupage or add other elements to it, the piece should be classified as mixed media. Having more than one color, the artwork is classified as "multi-colored."

**Painting Categories:** Generally two-dimensional (but sometimes textural), where a brush or painting apparatus is used to apply the material and is distinct from drawing where pen- or pencil-like apparatus is used to apply the material.

**Oil and Acrylic (painting):** A way of making a picture by applying a sticky liquid mixed with colored pigments to paper, panel or canvas. The liquid binder or vehicle can be oil or a synthetic binder "acrylic." Typically, it is two-dimensional (but can be textural) and is applied with a brush or other painting paraphernalia. Not to be confused with oil pastels or tempera.

**Tempera (painting):** Two-dimensional (but can be textural) art that uses paint whose pigment is mixed into a sticky, thickish, water-soluble base. Typically, it is applied with a brush or other painting paraphernalia. It is permanent and very fast drying, and not given to blending. Do not confuse this with acrylic paint.

**Watercolor (painting):** Paint with pigment that is mixed with a substance, allowing it to be water-soluble. While these paints can be opaque, their look is usually one that allows the paper to be seen through it. Typically, it is two-dimensional and is applied with a brush or other painting paraphernalia and water. However, even though tempera paint is water-soluble and is considered a type of watercolor, it is contained within its own category.

**Craft:** A form of art that is associated with hand-work and relatively simple tools and technology; can be two- or three-dimensional; includes cloth dyeing like batik, paper cutting, paper weaving, origami, textiles (weaving, sewing, etc.), projects using things like toothpicks and popsicle sticks, jewelry, mosaic tile projects, polymer clay, dimensional plaster or paper-based masks, puppets, scherenschnitte, paper-weaving, glass, etc. Three-dimensional decoupage like decoupage vases, etc. are included.

**Functional Pottery:** Not to be confused with "sculpture." A three-dimensional piece of art that is made of clay of some type. While this type of art can be 'sculptural,' it is narrowly defined by its construction with a type of clay and it has a function, like being a container, bank, candy dish, etc.

**Digital Art | Graphic Design:** The art category known as digital art & graphic design includes computer generated images or designs, these can include digital drawings, and comics. It can also include designs based on identity (logos and branding), publications (magazines, newspapers, and books), and advertising and product packaging. Submissions may create a fictional product or work off an established brand.

**Mixed Media:** Describes a work of art using a variety of materials and techniques. Can be two- or three-dimensional. Be careful here. If you use a variety of drawing tools, it would still be considered a drawing. For example, if the piece uses marker, crayon, pencil and colored pencil, it is still a drawing. Decoupage this piece, however, would classify it as mixed media. Two-dimensional paper collages would also be included.

**Photography:** The creation of durable images by recording light on film or digitally. The print is two-dimensional. Both the traditional camera using film and digital cameras can be used, but pictures must be still images, not moving pictures.

**Printmaking:** Two-dimensional art made by transferring an image from an original source to another surface, usually paper or cloth. There are different types of printmaking like woodblock printing where a piece of wood is carved and the relief is inked and pressed against another surface, leaving a mirror image. Linocut, where linoleum or rubber (with or without a wooden backing) is carved and print made with the same process as woodblock printing (above). Engraving in which an image is cut into metal or wood, but the incised areas show in the print, not the relief. The offset or planographic print which makes a lithograph; it reverses the image as well, and serigraph or silkscreen, which does not reverse the image.

**Recycled Materials:** Two- or three-dimensional art comprised primarily of recycled or found objects and materials. The bulk of the piece must be created from the intentional use of objects that would have otherwise been discarded.

**Sculpture:** Three-dimensional artwork made by carving, casting, forging, molding, welding or constructing, using materials such as stone, wood, clay, or other materials, but, like a picture, is purely aesthetic and has no useful function. This is not to be confused with functional pottery (see below). Example: wood carving.

**Video:** A sequence of moving images viewed with a monitor, television, or projector. Examples (including but not limited to) Documentary films, narrative films, commercials, experimental videos, as well as hand-drawn, computer-generated, or stop-motion animations, etc.