

VISUAL ARTS

LORI BALA, DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT

ENTRY FORMS DUE

August 1, 2026

LATE ENTRY FEE – Due August 8 – \$10.00

ENTRY FEES

All Visual Arts – \$5.00 per Item

EXHIBITS RECEIVED

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026, ~ 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Monterey Room

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITORS' RECEPTION

Monday, August 31st, 2026, ~ 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

EXHIBITS RELEASED

Tuesday, September 8th, 2026, ~ 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

DEPARTMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** This Department is open to all residents of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties.
2. No entries will be accepted after the closing date.
3. **ENTRY FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.**
4. Entries **MUST BE ORIGINAL** and created by the exhibitor.
This Department does not accept kits, stamped pattern work, or items produced in quantity for commercial sales.
5. No entry may have been exhibited in the previous Monterey County Fair.
6. MCF is proud of the professional quality Art Exhibit at our Fair. Department Classes encompass a broad spectrum of handcrafted Visual Arts. We encourage high-standard craftsmanship and stress individuality and creativity of artists. The following criteria shall be used as guidelines:
 - Originality of Design
 - Following Guidelines
 - Craftsmanship
 - Composition
 - Presentation
7. **IDENTIFICATION:** ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IDENTIFIED ON BACK UPPER LEFT CORNER OR UNDER BASE with the entrant's name, address, phone number, Division number, Class, and title. Title must be the same as given on the online entry. All information is to be neatly hand printed or typed.
8. **LIABILITY:** Every precaution will be taken in handling and exhibiting work; however, the Fair is not responsible for loss or damage which may occur from any cause. Submission of entry implies acceptance of all conditions stated in these rules. (Local and State).
 - Avoid entering any item high in sentimental and/or dollar value.
9. Exhibitors are encouraged to submit an artist's statement.
10. **JUDGING:** The American System of judging will be used. First, second, third prizes and/or Honorable Mention, will be given based on originality and quality of craftsmanship.
 - Awards will not be made if not merited.
 - All State Rules apply to all entries.
 - Judges and/or the Superintendent may move an entry from an inappropriate Division to an appropriate one.
 - All first-place winners in each Division will be re-judged for Best of Show.
11. The Department reserves the right to display all entries in a way that is aesthetically pleasing. All Photography and Two-Dimensional entries must be ready for hanging display. All entries will be displayed unless determined to be unsuitable for display by Judges or Superintendent.
12. Ribbons will be given when exhibits are released.
13. **Viewers' Choice Awards** will be announced Mon., Sept. 7th, 2026.
14. If you cannot find the proper Division for your work in Visual Arts, please check Home Arts.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Best of Show Photography – \$50.00 & Rosette
Best of Show Fine Arts – \$50.00 & Rosette
Best of Show Wood Arts – \$50.00 & Rosette
Viewers' Choice per Department – Ribbon

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS PER DIVISION (EXCLUDING FAIR THEME)			
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	HM
\$25.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	Ribbon

PHOTOGRAPHY

DEPARTMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be original photographic work of the exhibitor completed with the last year.
2. **Definitions of Division:**
 - a. An **Amateur** is defined as a person who engages in an event or activity as a pastime rather than a professional and has been doing so for less than 3 years.
 - b. A **Professional** is defined as a person who engages in art activity as a livelihood or for financial remuneration.
 - c. **Junior:** Younger than 18 years old
 - d. **Senior Citizen:** 62 years of age or older
 - e. **Exceptional:** Limited mental or physical disability.
3. **PRINT SPECIFICATIONS:** Prints may be from any camera type film, DSLR, Mirrorless and Phone) but they must be entered into the division that matches that camera type requirements. Prints should be as high quality as possible, either printing traditionally, or by using digital printing process. It is recommended that archival paper and inks are used for the quality of the images presented and for preservation of the photos.
4. **PRESENTATION SPECIFICATIONS:**
 - a. **ALL PHOTOS MUST BE 8"X 10"**. Any other sizes will be disqualified.
 - b. Photos must be matted to either 11"x14" OR 16"x20" size matting.
 - c. Black or White Only, with overlay window matte preferred. Will except without overlay. Must be presentation quality.
 - d. No frames or foam boards
 - e. Construction paper is not acceptable matting.
5. **IDENTIFICATION:** ALL PHOTOS MUST HAVE THE EXHIBITORS NAME, DIVISION AND CLASS ON THE BACK BOTTOM RIGHT HAND CORNER. ENTRIES WITH TEXT INFORMATION OR LABELS ON THE FRONT OF THE PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.
6. **Enhanced:** Digitally manipulating or altering the image. The content of the picture is changed significantly from the original, either by dramatic changes in content, selecting colorization, high dynamic range, compositing or other methods that alter the image/incorporate multiple photos into a single image. No AI Generated Images
7. **MODEL RELEASE:** A Release is required for each print in which a person is recognizable unless taken at a community activity, event, or on a public occasion.
8. **LIABILITY:** All reasonable care will be taken in handling each entry. Neither the Fair Management nor this Department will be responsible for unclaimed articles. All precautions will be taken during the Fair to protect the entries, but no liability for loss, theft or damage from any cause can be assumed by the Department or Fair Management. Submission of any work constitutes an agreement to this effect.
9. **JUDGING:** Judges will be looking for creative ways of photographing chosen subjects. Appropriate soft focus or selective focus photos are acceptable. Out-of-focus images or blurred handheld pictures are

regarded as poor work; sharp, clear images are valued. In black and white prints, a full range of tones from black through grays to white is expected.

- Judges need not give awards if they decide awards are not merited.
 - Best of Show will be chosen from all first-place winners of each department.
10. **ENTRY LIMITS: (1) entry per class**

PHOTOGRAPHY

DIVISION 500 AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY

DIVISION 501 PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

DIVISION 502 JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHY

DIVISION 503 SENIOR CITIZEN PHOTOGRAPHY

DIVISION 504 EXCEPTIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

CLASSES FOR DIVISION 500-504

CLASS:

- 1) Color - Agriculture
- 2) Color - Animals
- 3) Color - Architecture
- 4) Color - Landscapes
- 5) Color - Food
- 6) Color - Community Event
- 7) Color - Floral
- 8) Color - Portrait
- 9) Color - Seascape
- 10) Color - Any other
- 11) Black And White - Agriculture
- 12) Black And White - Animals
- 13) Black And White - Architecture
- 14) Black And White - Landscapes
- 15) Black And White - Food
- 16) Black And White - Community Event
- 17) Black And White - Floral
- 18) Black And White - Portrait
- 19) Black And White - Seascape
- 20) Black And White - Any other
- 21) Enhanced - Agriculture
- 22) Enhanced - Animals
- 23) Enhanced - Architecture
- 24) Enhanced - Landscapes
- 25) Enhanced - Food
- 26) Enhanced - Community Event
- 27) Enhanced - Floral
- 28) Enhanced - Portrait
- 29) Enhanced - Seascape
- 30) Enhanced - Any other

FINE ARTS

DEPARTMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Definitions of Division:**
 - a. An **Amateur** is defined as a person who engages in a n event or activity as a pastime rather than a professional and has been doing so for less than 3 years.
 - b. A **Professional** is defined as a person who engages in art activity as a livelihood or for financial remuneration.
 - c. **Enhanced:** Digitally manipulating or altering the image. The content of the picture is changed significantly from the original, either by dramatic changes in content, selecting colorization, high dynamic range, compositing or other methods that alter the image/incorporate multiple photos into a single image. **No AI Generated Images permitted.**
 - d. **Junior:** Younger than 18 years old
 - e. **Senior Citizen:** 62 years of age or older
 - f. **Exceptional:** Limited mental or physical disability.
2. Entries must have been completed within the past year.
3. **ENTRY LIMITS: (5) entries per class**
4. **IDENTIFICATION:** All fine arts pieces must have the exhibitor's name, division and class on the back, bottom right-hand corner. Entries with text information on the front will be disqualified.
5. **DISPLAY FORMAT:** All work must be securely wired for hanging. **NO SAWTOOTH HANGERS.** Clip frames or uni-frames will not be accepted in any Division. The Department may rescind the right to hang or display any work deemed unsuitable.
6. **FIN E ARTS WORKS MUST NOT EXCEED 24" WIDE BY 36" HIGH INCLUDING FRAME.**
7. **LIABILITY:** All reasonable care will be taken in handling each entry. Neither the Fair Management

nor this Department will be responsible for unclaimed articles. All precautions will be taken during the Fair to protect the entries, but no liability for loss, theft or damage from any cause can be assumed by the Department or Fair Management. Submission of any work constitutes an agreement to the effect.

FINE ARTS

DIVISION 505 AMATUER FINE ARTS

DIVISION 506 PROFESSIONAL FINE ARTS

DIVISION 507 JUNIOR FINE ARTS

DIVISION 508 SENIOR CITIZEN FINE ARTS

DIVISION 509 EXCEPTIONAL FINE ARTS

CLASSES FOR DIVISION 505-509

CLASS:

- 1) Oil - Abstract
- 2) Oil - Representational
- 3) Acrylic - Abstract
- 4) Acrylic - Representational
- 5) Watercolor - Abstract
- 6) Watercolor - Representational
- 7) Printmaking - Abstract
- 8) Printmaking - Representational
- 9) Pencil/Charcoal/Ink - Abstract
- 10) Pencil/Charcoal/Ink - Representational
- 11) Sculpted Art - Ceramic/Clay
- 12) Sculpted Art -Recycled/Reclaimed/Assemblage
- 13) Sculpted Art - Any Other
- 14) Wood Sculpture
- 15) Wood Assemblage