

# Decorative Arts Competition Handbook

# Adult

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Online or Paper Entry Form deadline</b>	<b>Friday, December 6, 2024</b>
<b>Late Entry Form Period</b>	<b>December 7 – 13, 2024</b>
<b>Deliver items to the Florida Center –</b> located at the Florida State Fair. (see page 6)	<b>Thursday, January 09 thru Saturday, January 11, 2024</b> <b>THR - FRI hrs.: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.</b>
<b>Shipping Information –</b> (see page 6)	<b>SAT hrs.: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Items exhibited</b>	<b>February 6 – 17, 2025</b>
<b>Entry pickup</b>	<b>Wednesday, February 19 thru Saturday, February 22, 2025</b> <b>WED - FRI hrs.: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.</b> <b>SAT hrs.: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.</b>

For more information, contact  
The Creative Living Department



Phone: 813-734-2810

Email: [CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com](mailto:CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com)



## Benefits of Competing?

The Florida State Fair is proud to showcase the bounty of talented people from around the state. Not only do we provide you the opportunity to win ribbons and prize money... it's also a great way to share your talent with a larger community. **In appreciation... all exhibitors receive a FREE ticket to attend the fair.**

## Competition Overview

**Entry Fee:** Adult Divisions \$5 per entry  
**Late fee** \$10 per entry

### Entry Fees are non-refundable

All information regarding Creative Living Competitive Exhibits can be found at [www.floridastatefair.com](http://www.floridastatefair.com) >> **PARTICIPANTS** (top of page) >> **CREATIVE LIVING** (drop down)

**How to enter online** – page 6

**General Rules** – page 7

**A paper entry form** is available on the last page.

**Exhibitors are encouraged to read this handbook in its entirety.**

**To enter holiday and seasonal items, please see the Home & Holiday/Seasonal Craft Handbook.**

**There are two classes for Decorative Artwork** (2D or 3D in any medium)

**Class 9 – Seasonal Decorative Art**

**Class 19 – Christmas Specific Decorative Art**

## Eligibility

- The Decorative Arts **Beginner Division** is open to all Florida residents ages 18 and up with three years or less of painting experience.
- The Decorative Arts **Non-Professional Division** is open to all Florida residents ages 18 and up.
- The Decorative Arts **Professional Division** is for those Florida residents ages 18 and up. **You must compete in the Professional Division if you:**
  - ✓ receive a major portion of your income from the sale of your art, OR
  - ✓ publish your own designs, OR
  - ✓ teach decorative art classes, OR
  - ✓ have a decorative arts certification or are a certified teacher, OR
  - ✓ have ever done any of the above in the past

**To enter items for a group or organization contact Creative Living office at 813-627-4309.**

# Entry Rules

## NUMBER OF ENTRIES

1. Because of the limitations for display space only **four (4) items per person** will be accepted for judging. All 4 can be entered in the same class or maybe entered in different classes.

## SIZE & PREPARATION GUIDELINES

2. All artworks must be labeled with the exhibitor's name on the back or bottom of the piece.
3. **Two-dimensional artwork, including the frame, cannot exceed 36" in any direction.**
4. **All two-dimensional artworks must be received installation ready.** Most artwork must be framed unless painted on a gallery-wrapped canvas. Painting must continue on all sides or be painted black on a gallery-wrapped canvas. Artwork should be suitably wired using strong screw eyes and wire. *See "Preparing Entry for Exhibition" on page 3.*
5. **Three-dimensional artwork cannot exceed 24" in any direction,** unless approved by the Competitive Exhibit Coordinator.
6. **All three-dimensional artworks must be received installation ready.** Provide a base if necessary for structural support.
7. All artworks must be dry when submitted for exhibition.
8. A decorative artist can use a design created by another artist; however, the piece must be entirely your own work.
9. Artists must disclose if art or artwork was created using an Artificial Intelligence Generator.

## GENERAL ENTRY RULES

10. Each adult exhibitor will receive one (1) daily admission ticket to the Fair.
11. Entries previously exhibited in the Florida State Fair may not be submitted for competition.
12. Exhibited work must be completed within the last two (2) years.
13. Entries must have been prepared/made/ processed by the exhibitor in whose name they are entered.
14. All entries will be displayed at the Fair whether they receive an award or not. In keeping with the Florida State Fair's family orientation, items of an offensive, controversial, or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.

## Judging & Awards

The Fair ensures that the judges we employ are knowledgeable in the division they are judging and will be impartial. Judges reserve the right to reassign entries to a more appropriate division or class. Judging will be done using a scorecard to assist in keeping decisions as objective as possible. **The decision of the judge(s) is final.**

If, at the Judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placing, the Judge shall give no award under any

circumstance. This rule applies whether there are one or more exhibits in the Class.

## Awards Information

### Decorative Arts – Beginner Division

---

**First Place – State Fair Ribbon \$15**

**Second Place – State Fair Ribbon \$10**

**Third Place – State Fair Ribbon \$5**

**Best of Show (Beginner) – State Fair Ribbon \$25**  
The Best of Show Award will be chosen from the first-place winners in each class (Beginner).

### Decorative Arts – Non-Professional Division

---

**First Place – State Fair Ribbon \$20**

**Second Place – State Fair Ribbon \$15**

**Third Place – State Fair Ribbon \$10**

**Best of Show (Non-PRO) – State Fair Ribbon \$30**  
The Best of Show Award will be chosen from the first-place winners in each class (Non-Professional).

### Decorative Arts – Professional Division

---

**First Place – State Fair Ribbon \$30**

**Second Place – State Fair Ribbon \$25**

**Third Place – State Fair Ribbon \$20**

**Best of Show (PRO) – State Fair Ribbon \$40**  
The Best of Show Award will be chosen from the first-place winners in each class (Professional).

---

**Director's Choice Award – State Fair Ribbon \$35**

**Honorable Mention Ribbons** may be awarded, at the discretion of the judge(s).

## Judging Criteria

**Overall Impression** Impact on the viewer, unique approach to subject matter... Is there a WOW factor?

**Pattern Execution** (placement on the surface, appropriateness for the surface)

**Technical Skills** (including color, values, application of paint, and clean execution of the design)

**Presentation** (including type of finish, all the surfaces are finished, framing if applicable)

---

***A Special Thanks to the Florida Suncoast Decorative Artist Chapter of Decorative Painters for their support and dedication to Florida State Fair.***



# Preparing Entry for Exhibition

## Decorative Arts (2D) (Items that can be hung on wall)

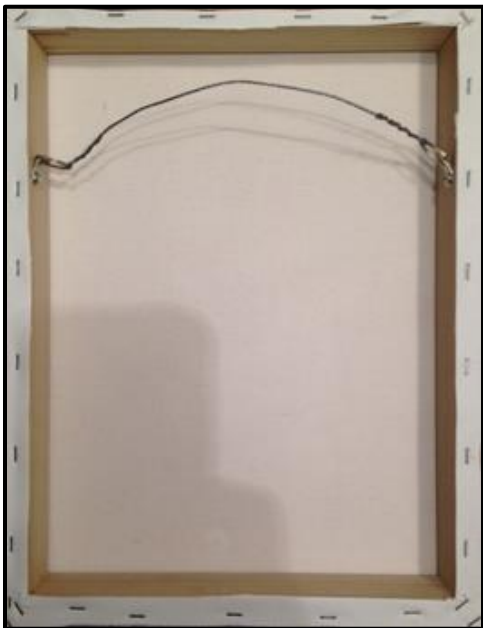
Artwork should be framed excluding gallery-wrapped canvases.

- **Framed items** must be ready to hang using secure screw eyes and wire.
- **Gallery-wrapped canvases** should be ready to hang using secure screw eyes and wire.

Gallery wrap is a method of stretching an artist's canvas so that the canvas wraps around the sides of the stretcher bar or strainer bars and is secured to the back of the wooden frame, where the hardware (staples, tacks, etc.) is hidden.

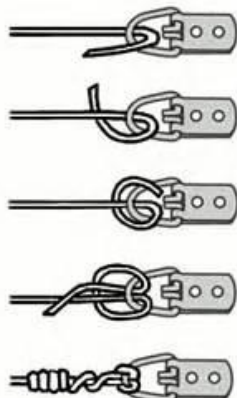
- **All artwork must be labeled with the exhibitor's name on the back of the piece.**

### Wiring of gallery wrapped canvases



#### LARK'S HEAD KNOT

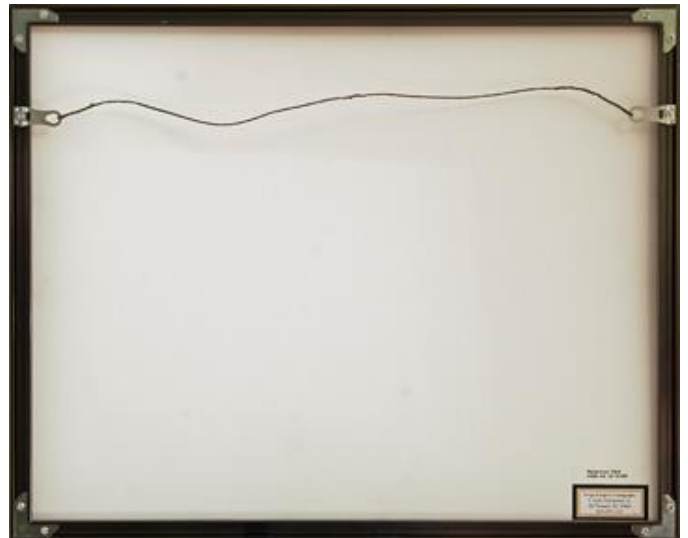
Also called...  
Lark's foot, Cow hitch, Girth hitch, Ring hitch, Lanyard hitch, Bale Sling hitch, Baggage Tag Loop, Tag Knot, Deadeye hitch, Running eye



## Decorative Arts (3D) (Items that sit on a pedestal or shelf)

- **All three-dimensional artworks must be received installation-ready. If necessary, provide a base for structural support.** The Fair will provide pedestals and glass cases to protect the work.
- **All artworks must be labeled with the exhibitor's name on the bottom of the piece.**

### Examples of wire hangers on frames



# Decorative Arts – Divisions & Classes

## Definitions

**Decorative Painting** is a diverse art form using a variety of techniques and mediums to decorate functional and non-functional surfaces. The designs can be original or copied patterns painted on a variety of surfaces from paper, wood items, canvas, clay pots, furniture, boxes, and many more. Mediums are anything from oil, acrylic, watercolor, colored pencils, alcohol inks, pastels, etc.

**Oil & Acrylic Media Paintings** are defined as 2D paintings painted on stretched or non-stretched canvas, wood, clay board, or another hard surface.

**Water Media** is limited to water-soluble water media (no water-soluble oil products or pastels). Paintings may be created on all surfaces specifically for water media (i.e. paper, clay board, or synthetic surfaces like Yupo and Tyvek®, illustration board, paper mounted on board, or flat upstretched watercolor canvas). The Paintings can be framed, matted, under glass or Plexiglas, or varnished.

**Acrylic pouring** can be used as a background for any of the categories but if it is only a pouring it should be entered in Fine Art Painting Class 7.

**Drawing** includes colored pencils, pastels, graphite, charcoal, pen & ink, scratch art, and water-based markers, etc.

**Alcohol-based – Inks & Markers** can include any surface where alcohol-based media can be applied.

**Calligraphy and Zentangle** can include any media and must be 100% drawn by the artist.

**Small Furniture** includes chairs, trunks, side tables, stools, hassocks, etc. Pieces can be antique, vintage, or new but must contain decorative painting, stenciling, faux finish or leafing done by the artist that is entering.

**Repurposed Items** are transformed or modified to use for a purpose other than its originally intended use, for example, a coffeepot made into a birdhouse. **The item must show some form of decorative painting done by the artist entering.**

For this decorative arts competition, a **3D surface** is any dimensional item that is not considered small furniture or a repurposed item. For example: plates, small boxes, etc.

**Art Created from Artificial Intelligence Generator** is any form of digital art created or enhanced with AI tools.

**Diamond Painting** is a form of art that is a cross between Cross-stitch and paint-by-numbers. The distinct feature of diamond painting is that it uses “diamonds” also known as drills. (Can be from a kit or design on blank canvas)

**Kit or photo conversion\*** is when the subject is pre-printed on a canvas following a color legend filling it in with drills (dots). If a photo has been converted, it would be printed on the canvas, making it a kit.

**Design on a blank canvas** is when the subject is not preprinted from another source such as a cross-stitch pattern, paint by number, or the exhibitor’s original design, and put on a blank canvas that has no

## Decorative Arts – Beginner Division 25.601

### Class Description (any media 2D/ 3D surfaces)

- 1 People/Portraits (any media)
- 2 Places (any media)  
(Scapes - Land, Sea, Sky & City)
- 3 Still Life, Florals or Things (any media)
- 4 Animals (realistic) or Whimsical Creatures (any media)
- 5 Stroke Work /Folk Art (any media)
- 6 Other Not Listed (any media)

## Decorative Arts – Non-Professional Div. 25.101

### Class Description

#### Acrylic & Oil Painting – 2D or 3D surfaces

- 1 Acrylic & Oil – People/Portraits
- 2 Acrylic & Oil – Places  
(Scapes - Land, Sea, Sky & City)
- 3 Acrylic & Oil – Still Life Florals & Things
- 4 Acrylic & Oil – Animals (realistic)
- 5 Acrylic & Oil – Whimsical Creatures
- 6 Acrylic & Oil – Stroke Work/Folk Art

#### Water Media Painting – 2D

- 7 Water Media – People/Portraits
- 8 Water Media – Places  
(Scapes - Land, Sea, Sky & City)
- 9 Water Media – Still Life Florals & Things
- 10 Water Media – Animals (realistic)
- 11 Water Media – Whimsical Creatures

#### Other Mediums – 2D or 3D surface

- 12 Reproduction of Old Masters (any media)
- 13 Drawing – People/Portraits
- 14 Drawing – Places (Scapes - Land, Sea, Sky & City)
- 15 Drawing – Still Life Florals & Things
- 16 Drawing – Animals (realistic)
- 17 Drawing – Whimsical Creatures
- 18 Alcohol-Based – Inks & Markers (any surface)
- 19 Calligraphy & Zentangle (any media)
- 20 Fabric, Silk, or Theorem painting (any media)
- 21 Mixed Media (2D or 3D)
- 22 Small Furniture – *see definition*
- 23 Repurposed Item – *see definition*
- 24 Original Design by artist (any media)
- 25 Art Created from Artificial Intelligence Generator
- 26 Other Not Listed
- 27 Diamond Painting (kit or photo conversion) \*
- 28 Diamond Painting (Design on blank canvas)

\* If it is derived from a photo, include a photo with your entry.

# Decorative Arts – Divisions & Classes ...continued

## Decorative Arts – Professional Division 25.201

### Class Description

- 1 People/Portraits (any media)
- 2 Places (any media)  
(Scapes - Land, Sea, Sky & City)
- 3 Still Life, Florals or Things (any media)
- 4 Animals (realistic) or Whimsical Creatures (any media)
- 5 Stroke Work /Folk Art (any media)
- 6 Other Not Listed (any media)

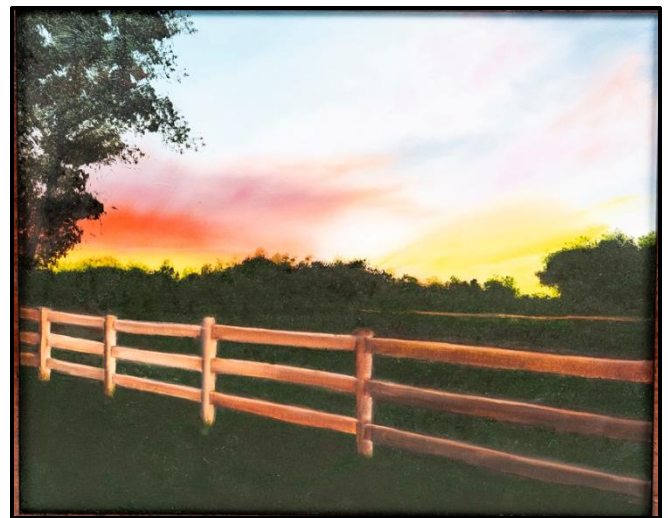
For Youth Competition see the Youth Arts & Crafts Competition Handbook.



The 2024 Decorative Arts Professional - Best of Show winner was Darla Nolan.



The 2024 Decorative Arts Non-Professional - Best of Show winner was Marilyn Kerr.



The 2024 Decorative Arts Beginner Best of Show winner was Linda Potter.

## How to Enter Online

We encourage you to enter online, using ShoWorks. The Florida State Fair has implemented ShoWorks, an online entry program. ShoWorks is an industry-standard used by over 50 fairs nationally. This user-friendly program can be trusted to accurately enter you into our competitions and allows for efficient communication via e-mail. We are excited to have ShoWorks to better facilitate entering Florida State Fair competitions.

- **Take a moment to look through this Competition Handbook to see which division and class your entry is eligible to compete in.** Then, follow the easy steps listed below to enter the competition you have chosen.
- **To Enter Online using ShoWorks.**  
Go to [www.floridastatefair.com](http://www.floridastatefair.com) and at the top of the home page select the **PARTICIPANTS** TAB and you will see in the dropdown list a link for **CREATIVE LIVING**. Select the [ENTER ONLINE](#) link on the left side of the page.
- **Everyone must register as a new exhibitor even if you have competed in the past.**
- **Note that sessions expire after 20 minutes of inactivity, so “save the cart” if you plan on leaving the computer for more than 20 minutes.**
- When registering, please verify that all information that you entered into ShoWorks is correct. Please pay special attention to capitalization, full names of cities/counties and use proper spelling (no abbreviations).
- **If you [ENTER ONLINE](#) you will need to pay with a credit card at that time. You will not be able to delay payment as we were able to do in the past.**

## Mailing Paper Entry Forms

- **Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**  
*Failure to complete any portion of an entry form may result in disqualification.*

**Late entries must be postmarked between December 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 2024 will incur an increased entry fee.**

### Mail Entry Form to:

**Creative Living Competitions** – Decorative Arts  
Florida State Fair  
P.O. Box 11766  
Tampa, FL 33680

**Make checks payable to:** Florida State Fair Authority

## Delivery of Entries

- **All entries must be delivered to Florida State Fair Authority on either:**  
Thursday, January 09, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Friday, January 10, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, January 11, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### • Deliver entries to:

Florida State Fair Authority  
Florida Center Bldg.

**Enter off of Martin Luther King Blvd. thru the MLK entrance on the south side of the fairgrounds.**

**Map with directions to the Florida Center** available on the [Creative Living webpage](#).

- Entries arriving at the Fairgrounds after Delivery and Shipping Deadlines may be disqualified.

## Shipping Information

- **Shipped entries must arrive no later than Tuesday, January 7, 2025.**
- Include a [Shipping Form](#), available at the bottom of the [www.floridastatefair.com](http://www.floridastatefair.com) on the **Creative Living** webpage in [Maps, Forms & Schedule](#) link.
- **Shipped entries, with Shipping Form to:**  
Florida State Fair Authority –  
Decorative Arts Competition  
4800 US Hwy 301 North  
Tampa, FL 33610.
- Entries are shipped back to exhibitors after the Fair in the same container. Use reusable shipping containers.
- Return shipping costs are the responsibility of the entrant.
- **Return shipping options:** Prepaid shipping label, UPS or FedEx account.

## Retrieving Entries

- **Early Pickup is available on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Exhibitors must contact the office prior.**
- See the calendar for Pickup dates, times, and locations (page 1).
- Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for a special pick-up appointment by emailing [CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com](mailto:CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com).
- All entries not claimed by April 1 of the same year will be recycled, disposed or donated through our program department.

## General Rules

### Disclaimer

Please be advised that competitive exhibits are entered at the exhibitor's risk. The Florida State Fair does not insure and is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of entries, even if the loss, damage, or theft occurs as the result of the handling of the exhibit by staff, volunteers, contractors and/or visitors. If the exhibitor desires insurance coverage, this coverage should be secured from a personal insurance agent prior to entry and the policy written to cover the period of exhibition and transportation. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits. Unauthorized persons are not permitted in the building after closing hours.

### Division/Class Cancellation

The Florida State Fair management reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

### Entry Errors

Florida State Fair management is not responsible for finding errors in entries. Exhibitors are responsible for any errors which were submitted online or on entry and summary forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his own error. The Florida State Fair management shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post-audits of Fair records. However, exhibitors with cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Such exhibitors should inform the Florida State Fair management immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, a complete description of the entry, and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than ninety (90) days after receiving notice of disallowance.

### Premium Payments

Premium Awards will be paid according to the Judging Criteria Record Sheets. **Premium checks will be void after 6 months from the date on the check. PLEASE CASH PREMIUM CHECKS IMMEDIATELY. After 6 months, all uncashed checks will be voided, and replacement checks will not be issued.**

### Substitutions

Substitutions, if necessary, must be within the same department as the original entry. Substitutions must be completed by the last day of the entry delivery period. You cannot transfer your entry to another exhibitor.

### Previously Entered Entry

Any entry that has been exhibited at a previous Florida State Fair is not eligible for entry in this year's Florida State Fair. This excludes Horticulture & Aquarium Beautiful entries.

## Verification

Exhibitors wishing to verify that the Florida State Fair has received submitted entry forms and fees must include a self-addressed/stamped envelope when submitting entry forms. Online submissions will receive a confirmation code once entries are submitted.

## Responsibility

The Florida State Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times. All still exhibits or display elements remaining on the Fairgrounds after the designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before September 1st of the same year.

## Removal of Entries

An exhibitor may not remove his or her entry from the Florida State Fair once it has been accepted. Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Handbook and shall not be removed from the Fairgrounds before the release date printed in the handbook, except (at the discretion of the Florida State Fair management) in cases of positive evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the Fair.

## Eligibility for Fair Employees

Florida State Fair Authority employees are eligible to compete in the Creative Living competitions except for those who directly work for the Creative Living Department.

## Dishonored Checks

A penalty of \$25.00 per dishonored check must be paid if a check in payment of entry fees or other applicable fees is refused by the bank. Only cash, certified check or money orders are acceptable for a penalty payment.

## Design

The Florida State Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of all exhibits. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the Fair. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed. Once an entry has been received by the Florida State Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitors shall be permitted. Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by Florida State Fair personnel. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary, bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display

2025 Florida State Fair

# Decorative Arts Competition Entry Form

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	
Exhibitor #	_____
Late Entry	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Total Fee	_____
Paid	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> MO <input type="checkbox"/> Check
Check No.	_____

**Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 6, 2024.**

**Late Entry Period: December 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Double Entry Fees)**

Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification.

Please print legibly

Exhibitors Name (First, Last)			
Mailing Address			County
City	State	Zip Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you are a new exhibitor
Phone (        )	Email		
<b>What division are you competing in:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner (ages 18 +)	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Professional (ages 18 +)	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional (ages 18 +)

**Entry Fee: Adult Division \$5 per entry | Late entry \$10 per entry**

**Exhibitors may enter up to four (4) entries for judging.**

**Late Entry**

YES  NO

#	DIVISION #	CLASS #	Enter the Title of the Artwork	FEE
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
<b>Total Amount Due</b>				<b>\$</b>

I hereby certify that I have read the Florida State Fair General Rules for the Competitive Exhibits Program (Page 7) and the above item(s) is/are entered for exhibition strictly in accordance with these rules, by which I agree to be governed. I also agree that the Florida State Fair may use my name, likeness, or photograph (including, but not limited to photographs of my entry), in any manner relating to my participation in the Competitive Exhibits Program, free of charge and without further notice or consultation.

I understand that the 2025 Creative Living Competitions & Exhibits are held in conjunction with the 2025 Florida State Fair and agree that the Florida State Fair is not liable or responsible for any delay, change of dates or cancellation of the 2025 Florida State Fair due to the following unforeseeable circumstances: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake; or (c) other potential disaster(s) or catastrophe(s), such as epidemics, pandemics, or explosions.

Signature of exhibitor

Date

**Mail Entry Form to:**

Creative Living Competitions – Decorative Arts  
Florida State Fair  
P.O. Box 11766  
Tampa, FL 33680

**Make checks payable to:** Florida State Fair Authority