Dear art educator,

The Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts is pleased to present its 2021 Student Art Contest and Juried Exhibition. The purpose of the contest is to recognize the artistic achievements of our area students and to increase community involvement in the museum. All public, private, and home school students in grades 1-12 residing in the following school districts are encouraged to participate: Aldine ISD, Conroe ISD, Cy-Fair ISD, Klein ISD, Magnolia ISD, Spring ISD, and Tomball ISD.

**2021 CONTEST CHANGES**

Due to ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19, this year’s contest will switch to digital artwork submission. A contest calendar follows on the next page, and guidelines for photograph submission are outlined in Section 6-d. The most notable changes to the entry submission process are listed below:

- Online entry forms will be due on March 3, and photographs due March 11.
- Artwork does not need to be matted for entry. It is only required for winning entries (after adjudication).
- Visual references should still be collected for each entry, but they do not need to be submitted digitally. References will only need to be physically submitted for winning entries.
- Signature forms will only need to be submitted for students whose work is selected as a contest winner.

Aside from the entry process, all artwork and judging guidelines remain the same as in previous years. Prizes awarded to place winners also remain the same. As a reminder:

- Artwork cannot be signed by students on the front of the artwork.
- Artwork size cannot exceed 36” in height or 24” in width, including matting.

Please also note that the Awards Ceremony and Reception is tentative, and will only be held if it is deemed safe to do so under government and health officials’ recommendations. We look forward to your and your students’ participation in the Pearl’s 2021 Student Art Contest! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Best regards,

Emily Guerra                Alice Kanayan
Community Engagement Director  2021 Student Art Contest Chair
Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts  Pearl Fincher MFA Volunteer Guild
emily@pearlmfa.org              akanayan@hotmail.com
Contest Schedule

February 12, 2021  Online entry forms made available on pearlmfa.org
March 3, 2021    Deadline to submit online artwork entry forms
March 5, 2021    Museum will send schools a spreadsheet with assigned numbers for each artwork
March 11, 2021   Deadline to submit artwork photos, labeled according to assigned number
March 18, 2021   Art adjudication at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts
March 19, 2021   School administrators notified about contest results*
March 26, 2021   Winning artwork to be delivered to museum by schools
April 1 - May 1, 2021  Student Art Contest winning artwork displayed in exhibition at the museum
April 24, 2021   Student Art Contest Award Ceremony and Reception (tentative)

  Ceremony:  4:00pm - The Forum at Cypress Creek Christian Community Center
             6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77379 (across from museum)

  Reception:  Immediately following ceremony - Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts

May 4, 2021   Winning artwork returned to schools by Student Art Contest representatives

Contact Information

Student Art Contest 2021 Chair, Pearl Fincher MFA Volunteer Guild:
Alice Kanayan
281-370-5942 • akanayan@hotmail.com

*Administrators: If notified that your students’ artwork has placed in the contest, please contact Alice Kanayan to schedule artwork drop-off

Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts Staff Liaison:
Emily Guerra
Community Engagement Director
281-376-6322 • emily@pearlmfa.org
1. PURPOSE STATEMENT
The purpose of the annual Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts Student Art Contest and Juried Exhibition is to recognize the artistic achievements of our area students and to increase community involvement in the museum. The contest is open to students in grades 1-12 in public (districts listed below), private, and home schools. All winning entrants will receive awards appropriate to their grade level. Winning art may be used in print materials and displayed at the discretion of the museum. All winning artwork will be returned to the students following the culmination of contest events.

2. THEME
The contest does not have a specific theme for submitted artwork. All entries, however, should adhere to subject matter appropriate for a family-friendly display. Artwork that includes profanity, obscene language or symbols, depiction of drug abuse, criminal violence, or nudity will be disqualified. The museum and its contest representatives have sole discretion in determining the appropriateness & eligibility of entries.

3. ELIGIBILITY
Public school contestants must be enrolled in grades 1-12 in one of the following participating school districts: Aldine ISD, Conroe ISD, Cy-Fair ISD, Klein ISD, Magnolia ISD, Spring ISD, or Tomball ISD. Public school students must enter through their school districts. Private School & Home School students must reside in one of the above districts, and enter through the school in which they are enrolled. Students who attend classes virtually are eligible to participate, but are still required to abide by the rules and regulations.

All entries must be created under the supervision of an art teacher at the student’s school. Students working in a home environment may not receive instruction or guidance from anyone other than the supervising art teacher (e.g., a parent/guardian, private tutor, or other teacher). Artwork created under the supervision of private tutors outside of the student’s school program is not permitted for entry.

4. ORIGINALITY
a. All work must be entirely created by the student. The entry must be conceptualized, developed, and completed by the student. Each student may only submit one art piece for consideration.

b. Only one student may work on a single entry. No group project submissions will be accepted.

c. Artwork previously entered into the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts’ Student Art Contest may not be re-entered. All 2021 contest entries must be completed in the 2020-2021 academic year.

d. Visual resources or references should be collected by teachers for each artwork. References do not need to be submitted digitally. They will, however, need to be submitted with the physical artwork when the winning entries are brought to the museum after adjudication. Omission of references with winning entries may result in disqualification of the entry; an alternate winner will then be selected. References include, but are not limited to, original photographs, student-directed photographs, preliminary sketches, and rough drafts. Unless created through direct observation, all works of art should have a visual resource(s).
5. GUIDELINES FOR ARTWORK

a. Artwork must be two-dimensional and completely dried or fixed.

b. Maximum entry size: artwork may not exceed 36” (height) x 24” (width), including matting.

c. Artwork must NOT be signed on the front of the piece.

d. New in 2021: Artwork does NOT need to be matted, mounted, or ready to hang unless selected as a winner. After adjudication, winning entries should be prepared according to the following guidelines:

   i. Works on paper should be matted (using black or white mat) or mounted to protect the artwork. Works on stretched canvas frames or canvas board do not need to be matted.

   ii. Paintings on canvas frames must be wired and ready to hang. Any piece that is particularly heavy or fragile must also be ready to hang.

   iii. Artwork may not be framed.

e. Each student may submit one piece of artwork into the contest, in any of the following media:

   › Drawing
     Colored or graphite pencil, ink, pastel, crayon, chalk, marker, or charcoal.  
     Note: Pastels and charcoal must be protected with a fixative spray.

   › Painting
     Acrylic, watercolor, oil, tempera, and other plastic paints.

   › Printmaking
     Block print, monoprint, collagraph, serigraph, lithograph, + other forms

   › Mixed Media
     Entries in which two or more 2-D media are combined in a single two dimensional entry; includes collage.*  
     Materials may extend up to one inch from the surface.

   *Collage: No more than 20% of collage material may be from newspapers, magazines, books, or other material pre-printed with text or designs (such as scrapbook paper).

   › Photography
     Includes original traditional or digital photographs taken by the student, in color or black and white.

   › Digital Art
     Includes compositions rendered on a computer from a blank workspace, as well as compositions that begin with the student’s original photograph, drawing, or illustration that is scanned in and completed with digital processes. Entries should adhere to size, matting, & originality guidelines as specified above.

   » Media NOT allowed for entry at this time:
     Animation, video art; ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, and other 3D work.
6. PREPARING ARTWORK FOR ENTRY

a. Divisions
The artwork submitted to the Student Art Contest is grouped and judged in the following three divisions:

Division I: Grades 9-12    Division II: Grades 6-8    Division III: Grades 1-5

b. Entry Fee
There is no required entry fee for the contest. Contest expenses – such as the awards, printing of the contest brochure, and jurors’ fees – are funded by museum supporters and community members.

c. Online Entry Form
The online entry form will be made available on the museum website (www.pearlmfa.org) on February 12, 2021. All entrants must accurately complete and submit the contest form electronically by March 3, 2021.

The online form will collect information about the student and artwork, as well as the required Artist Statement. The statement should be approximately 50 words describing the entry. Elementary grade level teachers/parents may assist in writing and/or transcribing the description. The Artist Statement may assist jurors in learning more about the artwork, which could affect judging outcome.

d. Artwork Photographs
In lieu of submitting physical artwork for adjudication, this year school administrators must submit digital photographs of each entry. On March 5 (two days after online entry forms are due), museum representatives will send schools a spreadsheet of their entries with assigned numbers. Photographs should be labeled with the assigned number and submitted via Google Drive by March 11, 2021.

Photograph Requirements:
- The artwork should be shown in its entirety.
- Only the artwork should be shown – do not include mats in the photograph.
- Files should be less than 10MB and labeled by assigned number.

Further detailed instructions will be emailed to administrators along with the spreadsheets on March 5.

e. Signature Form – Required *only* for winning artwork entries, after adjudication
In addition to the online entry form, a signature page will also be available to download online. This form will only need to be submitted for students whose work is selected as a contest winner.

A physical copy of this form, complete with signatures, should be submitted when the winning artwork is brought to the museum. All schools will be notified on March 19th about the status of their entries.

This form will collect certification signatures from the student, a parent or guardian, art teacher, and school principal, which confirm that the student has abided by the rules and regulations of the contest. The form also releases the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts from responsibility in cases of loss, theft, or damage to the artwork, and gives permission for displaying and reproducing the artwork.
8. JUDGING PROCEDURE

a. Public School Pre-Adjudication
   Each public school district may submit up to 25 entries. The district is responsible for adjudicating their students’ work first in order to arrive at the maximum of 25 entries.

   The district may determine the number of entries per division as long as the total number of submissions to the contest is 25 entries or less.

b. Private and Home School Students
   Each home school teacher and private school may submit up to 20 entries into the contest.

   All private school and home school artwork submissions will be pre-adjudicated as a collective unit by the contest jurors. Jurors will select up to 25 entries that will go on to be judged in the final adjudication round.

c. Final Adjudication
   The jurors will judge the public, private, and home school student finalists based on the criteria listed above. The final selections will be made solely on the consensus of the panel of jurors.

7. JUDGING CRITERIA

The entries will be judged according to the following criteria. Each criterion is weighted equally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technique</td>
<td>The student chooses and utilizes media and tools competently to enhance the appearance of the work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Expression</td>
<td>The evidence of imagination, creativity and individuality. The result is distinctive and the concept presented in a unique way that is imaginative and inventive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>The use of elements and the principles of art, effectively selecting those which enhance the overall appearance of the work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>The work combines technique, expression, and organization through artistic and critical judgment to achieve an effective interpretation or result.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: The museum and its contest representatives reserve the right to exclude any artwork from consideration in the contest. Any artwork disqualified for not meeting entry requirements – which include adherence to appropriate subject matter guidelines – will not complete the adjudication process. The decisions of the museum & contest representatives are final as relating to all contest matters.
### 9. RECOGNITION

#### a. Place Winners

The jurors will select a total of twelve pieces of artwork, representing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, and an Honorable Mention for each division. Place winners will receive the prizes listed below and their work featured in the Student Art Contest Juried Exhibition, on view at the museum from April 1 - May 1, 2021.

#### Division I: Grades 9-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>$1000 cash prize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>$500 cash prize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>$300 cash prize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>$100 art gift bag</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Division II: Grades 6-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>$150 cash prize and $125 art gift bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>$100 cash prize and $125 art gift bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>$50 cash prize and $125 art gift bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>$50 art gift bag</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Division III: Grades 1-5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>$100 art gift bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>$75 art gift bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>$50 art gift bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>$25 art gift bag</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### b. Jurors’ Selections

Artwork that is not selected as a place winner may be selected as a Jurors’ Selection, and also included in the Student Art Contest Juried Exhibition on view April 1 - May 1, 2021. Every year, the Student Art Contest receives exceptional artwork from area students and the inclusion of Jurors’ Selection pieces allows us to recognize as many of these students as possible. The number of selections is limited due to space constraints, but will include artwork from all three divisions.

#### c. Participant Certificates

Students whose artwork was selected by their school and/or school district for contest entry, but not selected by Student Art Contest jurors as a place winner or Jurors’ Selection, will receive a Participant Certificate.

#### d. 2021 Student Art Contest Winners & Juried Exhibition

All place winners and Jurors’ Selections from the 2021 contest will be on exhibition at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts from April 1 - May 1, 2021. Artwork will be returned to the schools by Student Art Contest representatives on Tuesday, May 4, 2021.