



Current Art Contests

Entering art contests provides a range of benefits, from inspiring creation to having an audience for artwork, to scholarship awards. For a list of art contests from around the world, read on!

Last Updated: 3/20/2026

Clip Studio Paint

47TH INTERNATIONAL ILLUSTRATION CONTEST

DEADLINE: April 8, 2026

Submit your original illustrations full of color! From royal purple to soft pink, bright yellow to deep green, there are so many colors around us. Make your very own color palette and draw your original illustrations with a harmony of colors!

WEBSITE: <https://www.clipstudio.net/en/cspcontest47/>

Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes

ARTEFFECT CONTEST

DEADLINE: April 21, 2026

Young artists participating in ARTEFFECT bring to life the stories of Unsung Heroes—individuals who demonstrated heroic traits and actions that made a profound impact on others, yet went largely unrecognized.

The 2026 ARTEFFECT annual competition is open to all U.S. and international students in grades 6-12. Students may develop their projects with a classroom teacher or independently (outside the classroom) with the confirmation of an instructor, parent, or legal guardian. Group projects are ineligible.

WEBSITE: <https://www.arteffectlmc.org/competition/enter>

Bow Seat

OCEAN AWARENESS CONTEST

DEADLINE: June 8, 2026

The 2026 Ocean Awareness Contest – *Your Story, Our Ocean* – encourages you to explore the many ways our ocean sustains, protects, and inspires us. We invite you to think about your personal connection to the ocean – whether

you're coastal or landlocked – through the value it brings to your life. The benefits of the ocean are widespread and multifaceted, from food production to climate regulation to artistic inspiration. Go through the sub-themes and explore the topics that resonate with you. Share how the ocean has shaped your story through art, writing, performance, film, or multimedia. *How does the ocean sustain, protect, and inspire you?*

WEBSITE: <https://bowseat.org/programs/ocean-awareness-contest/contest-overview/>

Embracing Our Differences

EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES - JURIED ART EXHIBITION SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: July 1, 2026

Artists possess a powerful tool to evoke social change. Without uttering a single word, they can enlighten, educate and affect change around the world. Embracing Our Differences invites you to participate in creating a society where inclusion is embraced and individuality is celebrated. Become a part of this change by submitting your original art to Embracing Our Differences and its annual international outdoor juried art exhibit.

The competition is open to anyone.

WEBSITE: <https://www.embracingourdifferences.org/submit-art-2027-exhibition/>

Ongoing Art Contests

Next Gen Artists

NEXT GEN ARTISTS AWARDS

DEADLINE: Ongoing

Ages 6-25 are welcome to participate! We at The NextGen Artists Awards are passionate about providing a virtual space to link current and successful professional artists with the next generation of creators. We are a platform that provides opportunities to create and engage with a network of talented and successful professional artists. We combine fun, creativity, and community into a professional career development framework that encourages young artists to create; successful artists to mentor; and communities to grow while providing the next generation of artists with opportunity, resources, and support to start their journey in the arts. Up to 5 artworks can be entered, and entry fee is \$40 per entry.

WEBSITE: <https://www.thenextgenartists.com/>

Worldwide Kids Drawings

WORLDWIDE KIDS DRAWING CONTEST

DEADLINE: Ongoing

This is a year round contest with no deadline. Winners will be announced when new drawings show on our winner's page. All contestants will be judged on their original style and artistic value. There is no theme to the drawing contest. Draw or paint what you feel represents your original style and artistic value. The contest is broken into three categories. Ages 6 through 8, ages 9 through 12 and ages 13 through 17. The contestants will be judged in these three categories, so everyone will have a great opportunity to win!

WEBSITE: <https://unric.org/en/category/united-nations-digital-engagement-hub/united-nations-competitions-and-contests/>

United Nations

UNITED NATIONS ART COMPETITIONS & CONTESTS

DEADLINE: Varies

Competitions and contests represent a fun and entertaining way for the United Nations family to communicate on its goals and objectives, informing and engaging citizens on issues of critical importance to the organization. The U.N. offers thousands of dollars in prizes to children and teens of all ages.

WEBSITE: <https://unric.org/en/category/united-nations-digital-engagement-hub/united-nations-competitions-and-contests/>

House of Representatives

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

DEADLINE: Varies

Each spring, the [Congressional Institute](#) sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated. Students submit entries to their representative's office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol.

WEBSITE: <https://www.house.gov/educators-and-students/congressional-art-competition>

US Kids Magazines

COVER ART CONTEST

DEADLINE: Ongoing

Children ages 2 through 12 are invited to make artwork based on this year's theme, "What is Your One Wish?". Winners are featured on the cover of Humpty Dumpty Magazine and Jack and Jill Magazine, with runners up featured inside the publications. Winners earn cash prizes of \$100-\$500 apiece!

WEBSITE: <http://uskidsmags.com/artcontest/rules.php>

Teen Ink

TEEN INK CONTESTS

DEADLINE: Ongoing

Each issue, one artist or photographer's work will be chosen to represent that month's issue. Check out some past covers to find inspiration for your cover! Submit your images now!

All photographs and artwork submitted to Teen Ink are automatically considered for the cover art contest.. The best images for the cover are clear, colored, high resolution, and vertically oriented. There are no deadlines; images are accepted and published throughout the year. Keep in mind if your submission has a seasonal or holiday theme, it's best to send it in early. If your submission is chosen for one of our covers, you will receive a \$25 gift card.

WEBSITE: <https://www.teenink.com/contests/CoverPhoto>

Scholastic

SCHOLASTIC ART COMPETITIONS

DEADLINE: Varies

Enter a number of contests, which rotate year-round, most of which provide scholarship funds. One of the largest art competitions in the U.S., affiliated with major colleges around the country. Create an account to view a range of contests.

WEBSITE: <https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/>

Student Art Guide

MORE OPTIONS FOR TEENS

[Click here](#) for an encouraging article featuring another well-curated list of art contests for teens!



Every Child is a Masterpiece