



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: 10/20/2026

Newport Beach

Newport Beach Student Art Exhibition

DEADLINE: October 1-November 30, 2026

Calling All Young Artists! The 2026 Newport Beach Student Art Exhibition is accepting original artwork from students in Pre-K through 12th grade. Young artists can submit paintings, drawings, pastels, collages and more. Entries open October 1 and close November 30, 2026.

WEBSITE: <https://newportbeachca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/84896/>

Young Artists

Young Artists - Trick or Treat

DEADLINE: October 30, 2026

Trick or Treat Art Contest Calling young artists ages 4–12! Create your own spooky, silly or imaginative Halloween-inspired artwork and enter the Trick or Treat Art Contest. Entries close October 30, 2026.

WEBSITE:

<https://www.usayoungartists.com/contests/4-12/>

Shaped by Place

Shaped by Place: Nature, Nurture, and Becoming

DEADLINE: October 3-31, 2026

Explore how nature, surroundings, and personal experiences shape who we become through a collection of contemporary artworks by local and regional artists.

WEBSITE: <https://sparkoc.com/event/>

Colibri Visual Arts 2026

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DEADLINE: November 7, 2026

A nearby in-person competition accepting traditional painting, drawing, and decorative arts and crafts. Age divisions are 5–6, 7–8, 9–12, 13–15, and 16–18. Digital artwork, including AI-generated artwork, is not accepted. The published page confirms the event date, but verify registration availability before planning to enter.

WEBSITE: <https://art.colibrifestival.org/>

17th Annual International Kids Art Contest — Frogs Are Green

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DEADLINE: December 31, 2026

The theme is “Humanity.” Students can explore kindness, helping others, protecting wildlife, preserving communities, and other interpretations of humanity. Each child may submit up to three artworks. Awards include first, second, and third place and honorable mentions across age groups 3–6, 7–9, 10–12, and 13–18. Entries are submitted through Flickr, following the contest's instructions.

WEBSITE: <https://www.frogsaregreen.com/17th-annual-international-kids-art-contest/>

SpixArt Youth Art Contest 2026

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DEADLINE: October 15–December 15, 2026

Theme: “Finding Joy in Small Spaces.” Students are invited to interpret joy through their own artwork. The contest offers monetary prizes of up to \$1,000 in the listed age categories and online recognition for winning work. This is a strong option for students who can communicate a clear idea through careful composition and technique.

WEBSITE: <https://www.spixfoundation.info/spixart>

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WEBSITE: <https://www.spixfoundation.info/spixart>

Water Is Life Art Contest — Western Municipal Water District

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DEADLINE: December 4, 2026

Theme: “Being water wise is...” Students create original artwork about water conservation at home, school, in agriculture, and throughout their communities. Three grade divisions—K–5, 6–8, and 9–12—will each have first-, second-, and third-place winners.

Prizes: \$100, \$75, and \$50 gift cards in each grade division. This is one of the strongest additional options for Art Steps students in eligible school districts.

WEBSITE: <https://westernwaterca.gov/503/Art-Contest>



Every Child is a Masterpiece