



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: 2/20/2025

The Art of Conservation

FISH ART CONTEST

DEADLINE: February 28, 2026

The Fish Art Contest is free to enter and open to all students in grades K–12. Students may submit one 2D entry (e.g., drawings, paintings, collages) and one 3D entry (e.g., sculptures, wood carvings, plastic portraits). Separate entry forms are available for 2D and 3D submissions, which will be judged and awarded separately. Previous entries are not eligible.

WEBSITE: <https://www.theartofconservation.org/fish-art-contest>

My Hero

ROBERT SHETTERLY PORTRAIT CONTEST

DEADLINE: March 1, 2026

The MY HERO Project uses media, art and technology to celebrate the best of humanity, one story at a time. We shine a light on positive role models to help students of all ages realize their own potential to make positive change in the world. Share your art, poems, films, songs, or stories about a hero with our global community. Prizes will be awarded for outstanding work!

WEBSITE: <https://myhero.com/portrait-contest>

Young Masters Awards

THE YOUNG MASTERS AWARDS COMPETITION

DEADLINE: March 15, 2026

Young Masters Awards was founded to empower the next generation of artistic talent. We are committed to creating a platform for young individuals to showcase their talents and accomplishments. We are building a national platform that rewards creativity, originality, and passion.

WEBSITE: <https://www.youngmastersawards.org/>

Kid Wind

NATIONAL WIND ENERGY ART CHALLENGE

DEADLINE: March 2, 2026

KidWind is excited to launch our third annual Energy Art Challenge—this year focused on Solar Energy! Six entries from each grade division—Elementary (K-5), Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12)—will receive an award and have their work displayed on the KidWind website.

WEBSITE: <https://kidwind.org/art-challenge/>

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>

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