



Visual Arts

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIXTH
NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

August 22 - September 1, 2025

Grand Island, NE



Join the Visual Arts Department in celebrating “Showcase Your Fair Face” at the 2025 Nebraska State Fair.

Superintendent: Anita Lewandowski, Grand Island, NE

Phone: 308-850-1480

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New for 2025

- Class 0555 AI Generated Art
- Division 4428 Tattoo Design Art Competition
- Division 4432 Photo Prop Frame Contest: Showcase Your Fair Face
- Division 4433 Chalk Art: Showcase Your Fair Face
- Completed ID Cards must be included for each exhibit:

Exhibitor's Name
Exhibitor Contact Information
Entry Dimensions
Brief Entry Description

Important Dates

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, August 5, 11:59 pm

Exhibit Delivery: Wednesday, August 13, 8am – 8pm

Thursday, August 14, 8am – 8pm

Exhibit Release: Monday September 1, 6pm – 8pm. ****Early Release is Prohibited****

Tuesday September 2, 8am – Noon

Now located in the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse

Visual Arts Department Divisions

- Divisions 4401-4417 contain classes based on different kinds of visual arts.
- Division 4419 is for Senior Adults Age 75 and older
- Division 4420 is for Senior Living Communities.
- Division 4426 is age-specific classes for senior youth (**ages 15-18**) that covers a range of visual arts.
- Division 4427 Plein Air is a Main Event during the fair by individual artists. Exhibits will be for sale.
- Division 4428 Tattoo Art Competition
- Division 4430 Let's Get Scrappy is a Main Event during the fair.
- Division 4431 Recycled Ribbon Challenge is a Main Event created prior to the fair.
- Division 4432 Photo Prop Frame Contest – Showcase Your Fair Face
- Division 4433 Chalk Art Contest – Showcase Your Fair Face

Class Premiums and Overall Awards

The judge may, but is not required to, award a ribbon for the first five places in each class of all Visual Arts divisions.

The premiums listed below are paid by the Nebraska State Fair

Place	Ribbon	
1	Blue	\$10
2	Red	\$6
3	White	\$4
4	Pink	
5	Yellow	
Honorary	Green	

In addition, the Nebraska State Fair also awards the following:

- Plein Air Premiums: Class 2701 1st \$300, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$75
- Tattoo Design, Let's Get Scrappy, Recycled Ribbon Challenge, & Photo Prop Frame Contest
 - Premiums: 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20
- Best of Divisions 4401-4417, 4426 – Rosette and \$30
- Reserve Best of Divisions 4401-4417, 4426 – Rosette and \$10
- Best of Age Group Senior Youth Division 4426 1st rosette and \$20 and 2nd rosette and \$10
- Three Overall Division Awards from entries in Divisions 4401-4417, 4417, and 4426 – rosette and \$75
 - Best of Painting and Drawing
 - Best of 3-D
 - Best of Other Art
- All Nebraska Artist medal for any exhibitor who receives Best of Division in the same division for two out of five consecutive years.
- Judge's choice and people's choice selections will receive a rosette.

Critiques: Exhibitors may receive a critique by the judges. These critiques will be available only to the exhibitor and should be picked up when the exhibit is released. We are not responsible for comments lost in the mail.

Results: Judging results will be available at www.statefair.org. Select "Agriculture & Competitive Exhibits", then select "Open Class Competitive Exhibits".

Overall Sweepstakes Sponsored by Grand Island Casino Resort

These are based on a point system. 1st place – 5 points, 2nd place – 3 points, and 3rd place – 1 point.

Best of Show – 15 points, Reserve Best of Show – 12 points, Best of Division 10 points, Reserve Best of Division 7 points.

Note: If an exhibitor wins for 2 consecutive years, they will be ineligible to win for the following 2 years.

1st place - \$300

2nd place - \$200

3rd place - \$100

The first-place winner will then be entered in a people's choice Overall Sweepstakes Winner receiving a plaque and their name engraved on a trophy that will be displayed each year during the fair. The voting will begin the final weekend of fair after all static events are complete. It will be a google form that you will use an email address to submit a vote.

Judging results will be available at www.statefair.org. Menu – Agriculture & Competitive Exhibits – Open Class Competitive Exhibits

Department Rules

It's the Exhibitor's responsibility to be familiar with the [General Rules & Regulations](#) linked here which apply to all Nebraska State Fair open class departments of Competitive Exhibits and to the specific rules for each department.

Additional Rules Specific to the Visual Arts department are:

- Competition is limited to Nebraska residents only.
- All artworks must be original. This means the artist has used his or her own ideas. Copies of work created by other artists or photographers must not be used in any way, including downloading, reproducing, duplicating in exact form the ideas or subject matter of other artists or photographers. Exhibits found to be copies will be disqualified from competition unless they are from class-led instructions.
- Paint-by-number items are not allowed. Enter Diamond Art kits in Textile Arts.
- It is not necessary for an item to be entered in a county fair prior to entry in the Visual Arts Department at the Nebraska State Fair.
- The exhibit may be created prior to 2025, if not exhibited in the Visual Arts Department of the Nebraska State Fair prior to 2025.
- The exhibitor selects the division and class for entry; however, the superintendent may move an item to a different class if it benefits the exhibitor.
- An exhibitor may enter up to three different items in the same class, but the same item cannot be entered in more than one class.
- Senior Youth must enter Division 4426. The exhibitors age as of January 1, 2025, is required on the entry form.
- Exhibitors may provide a business sized card to be placed on the front of their work that has their contact information. The sale price must be clearly listed on the entry form. Not for sale artwork must be identified as NFS (not for sale). The Nebraska State Fair will receive a 20% commission. A check will be sent to the exhibitor within 30 days of the conclusion of the fair.
- Plein Air, Chalk Art, and Let's Get Scrappy are artwork created entirely onsite at the Nebraska State Fair. Plein Air classes do have entry fees.
- Barn Quilts must be entered in Division 4416 class 1611, 1612, 1613, or 1614.
- Removal of entries by the exhibitor prior to release time set by the Nebraska State Fair is prohibited.

Exhibit Presentation Requirements

- Remove all county fair ribbons, newspaper articles, and photos before bringing the items to the fair.
- All two-dimensional artwork must be received installation-ready. Artwork must be suitably framed (unless canvas) and wired using strong, screw eyes and wire. Artwork with clip mounts, missing wires, string, scotch tape, or sawtooth hangers WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Completed identification cards must be included for each exhibit, which will include: the entry dimensions to the closest inch, two or three words that are helpful in identifying the exhibit by site, and the exhibitors name and contact information.

Entering Exhibits – Deadline is Tuesday, August 5, 11:59 pm

Exhibitors may pre-purchase \$5 Exhibitor Gate Tickets. A maximum of 5 exhibitor tickets per family is allowed. No refunds will be given on any unused or lost tickets. To purchase these tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/3DdaaKm> and use password CVENT. Exhibitor tickets go off sale Thursday August 21, 2025 at 11:59pm.

Please note that daily gate admission for seniors (age 60+) and kids (6-12) is \$6 for any day of the fair. Find additional ticket deals and details at www.statefair.org "Buy Tickets".

Online Registration: The most time and cost-efficient way to enter is online. Exhibitors can enter all their open class exhibits and order exhibitor tickets (optional) in one session. Online entry begins around July 1. Instructions on how to enter online are found on the website www.statefair.org – Menu – Agriculture & Competitive Exhibits – Open Class Competitive Exhibits – Scroll down to Agricultural Products – Online Entry

Mail-In or In-Person Registration: When using mail-in or in-person registration, the exhibitor must use a separate form for each department entered. Either print the entry form from the following link: [2025 Visual Arts Entry Form](#) or request a form from the Nebraska State Fair Office, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE 68801, Phone 308-382-1620.

Entry forms must be mailed, faxed, or delivered to the Nebraska State Fair. Deadline for is Tuesday, August 5, 11:59 pm.

- Mailing Address: Nebraska State Fair, PO Box 1387(envelopes only), Grand Island, NE 68802-1387
- Fax: 308-384-1555
- In person delivery: Nebraska State Fair, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE 68801

Guidelines for Completing Entry Form

- Enter all items you plan to bring. There is no entry fee except in Divisions 4427. Items not brought will be deleted at the fair. No add-ons or substitutions will be allowed.
- The entry form description is for identification purposes only. It should only be a few words long, provide identifying size and subject to help locate item by sight. Do not include class name/number as part of the description.
- Retain a copy of the entry form. A copy is required when you deliver your exhibits. For online registration, print either the entry receipt activity report or a packing/loading report.
- If you are entering a very large item please contact Visual Arts Superintendent Anita Lewandowski via email anita.lewandowski@gmail.com or by phone at 308-850-1480 in advance so she can plan room to accommodate your exhibit.
- Several, but not all, of our fine arts divisions have been divided into Professional and Novice classes. The exhibitor will determine which class to enter.
 - Professional classes indicate that the artist's work is unique, identifiable, and well developed. They have an inventory of properly finished work and are recognized as a professional by their peers. Professional artists are in the business of producing an income.
 - The novice classes indicate that the artist has little previous training or professional status. They may or may not sell and derive income from their art, but that is not their primary motivation. They are not in business.

Delivery of Exhibits – 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse - Deadline is Thursday, August 14th, 8pm

Entries can be delivered in person or sent by USPS, FedEx, or UPS.

- In-Person: bring exhibit(s) along with a copy of the entry form to the Visual Arts area in the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse. Enter Gate 5 and enter through the North or West Doors. Receiving times are Wednesday, August 13 and Thursday, August 14, 8 am-8 pm.
- Ship by USPS, UPS, FedEx: refer to [Shipping Options](#) for detailed instructions on packaging, where to send exhibits, and include a prepaid return label with the exhibit. Note that items sent by mail may experience long delivery delays.
- Please ship exhibits with protective packaging. Broken exhibits will not be judged or displayed.

Return of Exhibits – Early release is prohibited.

- In Person: Items can be picked up Monday September 1, 6 pm-8 pm or Tuesday September 2, 8 am - noon. You must present identification and sign the release list to collect your items.
- Shipping: Exhibitors who want items returned by mail or a delivery service must make this notation on the entry form enclosed with the exhibits. A prepaid return label must be included. Please send entries for other departments separately. Exhibits will not be accepted or returned by COD. Refer to [Shipping Options](#) for return information.

Exhibits not picked up during release time or without a prepaid return label must be picked up from the Nebraska State Fair office, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200 Grand Island NE, by Friday, October 24. After that items will be donated to charity.

Divisions 4401-4426

Division 4401: Oil, Acrylic, & Permanent Media

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Oils - Professional – fix class numbers

- 0101 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0102 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0103 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0104 Still Life/Florals

0105 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Acrylics - Professional

0111 Landscape or Seascape Scene

0112 Portraits/Composition with Figures

0113 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife

0114 Still Life/Florals

0115 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Oils - Novice

0151 Landscape or Seascape Scene

0152 Portraits/Composition with Figures

0153 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife

0154 Still Life/Florals

0155 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Acrylics - Novice

0161 Landscape or Seascape Scene

0162 Portraits/Composition with Figures

0163 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife

0164 Still Life/Florals

0165 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4402: Water Soluble Media

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Watercolor – Professional

0201 Landscape or Seascape Scene

0202 Portraits/Composition with Figures

0203 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife

0204 Still Life/Florals

0205 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Gouache – Professional

0211 Landscape or Seascape Scene

0212 Portraits/Composition with Figures

0213 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife

0214 Still Life/Florals

0215 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Other Water Soluble – Professional

0221 Graphite

0222 Oil

0223 Crayon

0224 Ink

0225 Pastels

Watercolor – Novice

0251 Landscape or Seascape Scene

0252 Portraits/Composition with Figures

0253 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife

0254 Still Life/Florals

0255 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Gouache – Novice

0261 Landscape or Seascape Scene

0262 Portraits/Composition with Figures

- 0263 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0264 Still Life/Florals
- 0265 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Other Water Soluble

- 0271 Graphite
- 0272 Oil
- 0273 Crayon
- 0274 Ink
- 0275 Pastels

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4403: Pencil or Ink Drawings

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Professional

- 0301 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0302 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0303 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0304 Still Life/Florals
- 0305 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other
- 0307 Structured Pattern: Zentangle, Tangle Doodle, Zendoodle, Structured Doodle, etc

Novice

- 0351 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0352 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0353 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0354 Still Life/Florals
- 0355 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other
- 0357 Structured Pattern: Zentangle, Tangle Doodle, Zendoodle, Structured Doodle, etc

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4404: Pastels, Charcoals, and Other Drawing Materials

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Pastels - Professional

- 0401 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0402 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0403 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0404 Still Life/Florals
- 0405 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism

Charcoal - Professional

- 0411 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0412 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0413 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0414 Still Life/Florals
- 0415 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism

Other Drawing Materials (Conte, A Paris, Scratchboard, Silver Point, Wax Crayons, etc) - Professional

- 0421 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0422 Portraits/Composition with Figures

- 0423 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0424 Still Life/Florals
- 0425 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism

Pastels - Novice

- 0451 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0452 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0453 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0454 Still Life/Florals
- 0455 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Charcoal - Novice

- 0461 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0462 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0463 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0464 Still Life/Florals
- 0465 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Other Drawing Materials (Conte, A Paris, Scratchboard, Silver Point, Wax Crayons, etc) - Novice

- 0471 Landscape or Seascape Scene
- 0472 Portraits/Composition with Figures
- 0473 Animals, Birds, or other Wildlife
- 0474 Still Life/Florals
- 0475 Abstract/Non-Representational/Surrealism/Other

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4405: Computer-Generated Digital Artwork, Comic Book Art, & AI Generated Art

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

Computer-Generated Digital Art

- 0501 Cartoons/Fantasy/Science-Fiction/Superheroes/etc.
- 0503 Anime and Manga Style
- 0504 Other not listed, including Punk or Steam art

Comic Book Art

- 0551 Cartoons/Fantasy/Science-Fiction/Superheroes
- 0553 Anime and Manga Style
- 0554 Other not listed, including Punk or Steam art

AI

- 0555 AI Generated Art
 - A step-by-step account must be provided, with accompanying screenshots, of the prompts/direction given and the resulting images. This allows the judges to critique grasp of knowledge and proficiency in using the generator to produce the desired results. Exhibits submitted without step-by-step account will not be judged. This should be submitted on standard letter-sized paper, one-sided, and in color. The artist's name should not appear anywhere on this paperwork.
 - No prompts/direction shall reference any specific artist (i.e. you cannot prompt something "in the style of van Gogh" or "like Picasso"). Any such direction to a specific artist will be grounds for disqualification, and the piece will not be judged.

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4406: Sculpture

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Professional

- 0601 Carving, Wood
- 0602 Carving, other not listed
- 0603 Welded Sculpture made from found objects or scrap metal sculptures
- 0604 Fabricated Metal
- 0606 Wire Art
- 0607 Plaster/Gypsum
- 0608 Clay
- 0609 Other not listed

Novice

- 0651 Carving, Wood
- 0652 Carving, other not listed
- 0653 Welded Sculpture made from found objects or scrap metal sculptures
- 0654 Fabricated Metal
- 0656 Wire Art
- 0657 Plaster/Gypsum
- 0658 Clay
- 0659 Other not listed

Note: Paper Mache moved to Paper Art Division 4412. Polymer Clay moved to Other 3-D Arts Division 4417.

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4407: Mixed Media

Note: Mixed media art refers to visual art that combines a variety of media in a single artwork. Items which include more than 50% textile fibers should be entered in Textile Arts Department, Division 5210 Creative Fiber Art.

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on upper left corner of back including the exhibitor's name and address.

- 0701 Wall Hung Object, 2-D including collage
- 0702 Wall Hung Object, 3-D including collage
- 0703 Stand-Alone Object, 3-D
- 0704 Screen, accordion fold
- 0705 Vessel, with or without lid
- 0706 Handmade Book with or without content added
- 0709 Other not listed, including mobiles, ceiling hung objects, altered books, etc

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4408: Pottery made out of Clay

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on bottom of item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

Professional

- 0801 Wheel Thrown
- 0802 Hand Built and Coiling
- 0803 Cast/Mold
- 0804 Combined Techniques
- 0805 Primitive Firing Methods, including raku, pit firing, horse hair, etc

0806 Other not listed

Novice

0851 Wheel Thrown

0852 Hand Built and Coiling

0853 Cast/Mold

0854 Combined Techniques

0855 Primitive Firing Methods, including raku, pit firing, horse hair, etc

0856 Other not listed

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4409: Glass

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

0901 Stained Glass, flat work, 3-D work

0903 Fused and Slumped Glass

0904 Sandblasted and Etched Glass

0905 Lamp work

0906 Blown Glass

0908 Other not listed, including casted glass

Note: Glass Mosaic moved to Other 3-D Arts Division 4417.

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4410: Woodworking

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on upper left corner of back or bottom of item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

1001 Carving by Hand

1002 Bentwood

1003 Scroll Saw – fretwork by hand

1004 Scroll Saw – intarsia by hand

1005 Wood Turning

1006 Furniture

1007 Carving by Machine

1008 Scroll Saw – fretwork by machine

1009 Scroll Saw – intarsia by machine

1010 Wooden Inlay

1011 Other not listed, including wooden toys and novelties

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4411: China Painting

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on back or bottom of item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

- 1101 Florals, Fruits, Vegetables – includes roses
- 1103 Raised Paste, Gold Dresden, and Pen Work
- 1104 All Living Things – animals, birds, wildlife, portraits, figures
- 1105 Scenes

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4412: Paper Art

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

- 1201 Greeting Cards and Tags - Flat – one item per entry
- 1202 Greeting Cards and Tags - Folded – one item per entry
- 1203 Bags, Boxes, and Containers – one item per entry
- 1204 Pocket or Fold Out Card
- 1205 Pocket or Fold Out Book
- 1206 Scherenschnitte or Cut Paper – must be framed and ready to hang
- 1207 Paper Sculpture/Paper Mache
- 1208 Handmade or Decorative Paper
- 1209 Collage – comprised of 100% paper
- 1211 Other not listed – including embroidery on cards and origami

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4413: Scrapbooking

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Each entry is limited to the front and back of one page but the page can be any size.

- 1301 Scrapbook Page – Birthday, Wedding, Anniversary
- 1302 Scrapbook Page – School Days
- 1304 Scrapbook Page – Vacation, Special Event, or other
- 1306 Scrapbook Album – any type
- 1307 Scrapbook Album – design with online company, publishing company such as Shutterfly
- 1308 Folio Scrapbook

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4414: Beading and Jewelry

Entry description format: The entry description is for identification purposes only.

- For original design classes, use two to four words helpful in identifying the entry by sight.
- For kit/class/pattern classes use both the designers name of the k/c/p plus two to four words helpful in identifying the entry by sight.

Label attached to item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

Original Design - O/D

- 1401 Stringing – bracelet, necklace, earrings, or grouping of these items
- 1403 Bead Weaving – any kind
- 1404 Bead Embroidery – any kind
- 1405 Kumihimo – any kind
- 1406 Polymer Clay Jewelry – any kind
- 1407 Wire Work Jewelry - any kind
- 1408 Precious Metal Clay Jewelry – silver, bronze, copper, brass, any kind
- 1410 Beading on a Loom, 3-D Beading Forms including Ornaments

Kit, Class, or Pattern - K/C/P

- 1451 Stringing – any kind
- 1452 Bead Weaving – any kind
- 1453 Bead Embroidery – any kind
- 1454 Kumihimo – any kind
- 1455 Polymer Clay Jewelry – any kind
- 1456 Wire Work Jewelry - any kind
- 1457 Precious Metal Clay Jewelry – silver, bronze, copper, brass, any kind
- 1458 Beading on a Loom and 3-D Beading Forms including Ornaments

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4415: Leather

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Label on back or bottom of item including exhibitor's name and address if able and doesn't take away from exhibit.

Professional

- 1501 Leather Carved or Tooled Pictures – must be framed and ready to hang
- 1502 Purses, Cases, Wallets
- 1503 Belts and Buckles
- 1504 Saddles and Tack – new or restored
- 1505 Attire – costume or wearable item
- 1506 Other not listed

Novice

- 1551 Leather Carved or Tooled Pictures – must be framed and ready to hang
- 1552 Purses, Cases, Wallets
- 1553 Belts and Buckles
- 1554 Saddles and Tack – new or restored
- 1555 Attire – costume or wearable item
- 1556 Other not listed

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4416: Other Surface Design Arts

See Presentation Requirements on page 4. Note: Barn Quilts do not need to be ready to hang.

- 1600 Art Journal, using purchased or handmade book
- 1601 Alcohol Ink on paper – must be framed and ready to hang
- 1602 Alcohol Ink on non-porous surface
- 1603 Batik – must be ready to hang
- 1604 Acrylic Pour
- 1606 Decorated Eggs – group of 3 or more – any kind
- 1607 Decorative Gourds – any kind
- 1608 Illustrated Text – calligraphy or printed text – must be ready to hang
- 1609 Prints, including Gelli prints
- 1610 Tole Painting – any kind
- 1611 Barn Quilt – 2x2
- 1612 Barn Quilt – 3x3
- 1613 Barn Quilt – 4x4
- 1614 Barn Quilt – other not listed
- 1615 Class Led 2-D Wall Art – such as offered, and paid to paint stores – any media
- 1616 Other Surface Design Arts – not listed

Special Classes – any media accepted. These classes are for very small artwork and entries.

- 1617 Miniatures – 2-dimensional not to exceed 25 square inches (i.e. 5"x5")
- 1618 Miniatures – 3-dimensional not to exceed 125 square inches (i.e. 5"x5"x5")

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4417: Other 3-D Arts

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

- 1701 Basketry – using reed or natural material: baskets made of textile fabrics to be entered in Textile Arts Department
- 1702 Ceramics
- 1706 Dolls
- 1708 Mosaic – Tile or Glass
- 1709 Polymer Clay – any kind
- 1710 Trash to Treasures – repurposed furniture
- 1711 Trash to Treasures – upcycled objects – art objects made from items having a previous use Note: any sculptures need to be entered in Division 4406
- 1712 Trash to Treasures – pallet projects – made from wooden pallets
- 1715 Other 3-D Arts – not listed. Includes painted and/or stacked rocks.

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4419: Senior Adults Ages 75 and older

You are not allowed to enter Division 4420: Senior Living Communities **and** Division 4419: Senior Adults. You must choose one or the other.

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Note: 2-D artwork should be framed and ready to hang for entries from this division to be competitive in the Department Overall Awards

- 1901 Paintings – any kind including pastels
- 1902 Drawings, Prints, Digital Generated Art
- 1903 Clay, Ceramics, China Painting, Sculpture
- 1904 Woodworking, Leather
- 1906 Other Art – not listed

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4420: Senior Living Communities

The Visual Arts and Textile Arts departments will now include classes (previously offered by the Sr. Living Communities Department) for individuals living in a Senior Living Community. Many senior residents are learning new skills and crafts in organized activities at the communities they live in. Nebraska State Fair values our Senior Living Community exhibitors and enjoy seeing their exhibits each year at the fair.

Guidelines

- Community Coordinators are responsible to read and know the [General Rules and Regulations](#).
- **Each exhibitor may have up to 2 entries in each class.**
- All entries must be accompanied with a label with the name of the Senior Living Community and the name of the resident.
- Deadline, delivery, and release information can be found on pages 4 & 5.

Sweepstakes are awarded for placing and participating in each division in both Visual Arts and Textile Arts. The 1st place community will receive a \$300 grant, 2nd place \$200 grant, and 3rd place \$100 grant.

1 st Place	5 points
2 nd Place	3 points
3 rd Place	1 point

- 2001 Paintings, any kind
- 2002 Drawings, Prints, or Digital Creations
- 2003 Clay, Ceramics, China Paintings, or Sculptures
- 2004 Woodworking or Leather
- 2005 Door Decor
- 2006 Other, not listed, including crafts

Division 4426: Senior Youth Ages 15-18

See Presentation Requirements on page 4.

Note: 2-D artwork should be framed and ready to hang for entries from this division to be competitive in the Department Overall Awards. **Youth 14 and under please enter in the Education Department by July 15th.**

- 2601 Paintings – any kind including pastels
- 2602 Drawings, Prints, Digital Generated Art
- 2603 Clay/Ceramics
- 2604 Sculptures
- 2605 Mixed Media - NEW
- 2606 Woodworking
- 2607 Other Art – not listed

Best of Division: Rosette and \$30

Reserve Best of Division: Rosette and \$10

Division 4427: Plein Air at the Fair

All entries in the "Plein Air at the Fair" category must be created as true plein air artwork, meaning the piece must be painted *entirely on-site*, in the open air, during the Nebraska State Fair on Sunday, August 24th. Artists must work from direct observation (not photographs), capturing the scene as it unfolds in real time to reflect the authentic spirit and atmosphere of the fair.

To align with this year's theme, "Showcase Your Fair Face," all entries must creatively interpret and highlight the unique character, emotion, and story of the fair through the artist's chosen scene.

Artwork must depict a single scene — *not a collage or montage* of multiple locations or moments — and must be created exclusively within the livestock area of the fairgrounds. This includes barns, arenas, pens, and other spaces where livestock and livestock-related activities take place.

Livestock includes all species, such as cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, rabbits, and others represented at the fair. People may also be included in the artwork, as long as they are part of the scene observed within the livestock area.

Failure to follow these requirements may result in disqualification from judging.

- 2701 Plein Air – 20 spots available – Entry Fee \$30

An exhibitor letter with more information will be mailed or emailed to each exhibitor after the entry fee is received. Check-In will be Sunday, August 24th from 8am-9am in the Visual Arts area in the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse. Exhibitors will then be released to go and set up in your painting location. Your artwork must be checked in the Visual Arts area before the building closes at 9pm.

Artwork will be judged during the fair and will be on display for the remainder of the fair. All Plein Air artwork is required to be offered for sale with the Nebraska State Fair receiving a 20% commission. Payment to the artist will be made at the conclusion of the fair. If your artwork is not sold you are free to pick it up at the conclusion of the fair or you may choose to donate it to the fair. The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right to use the winning entry for marketing and promotional materials.

Division 4428: Tattoo Design – Art Competition

Show off your ink-spiration! This category is for tattoo artists and designers to exhibit their original tattoo artwork. Exhibitors must submit a colored photo of a tattoo they personally designed.

- Photo must clearly show the finished tattoo (on skin).
- **Photograph must be printed and matted to 8"x10".**
(*Mat size should be 8"x10" with the photo securely mounted inside; no frames, please.*)
- Exhibitor must be the designer of the tattoo; tattoos applied by someone else are allowed as long as the design is original.
- Tattoos may be in any style (traditional, realism, tribal, illustrative, etc.).
 - **Photograph must be printed and matted to 8"x10".**

2801 Tattoos

Division 4430: Let's Get Scrappy

This is a timed mystery envelope scrapbook challenge. Each exhibitor will be given an envelope with materials to create a scrapbook page related to the State Fair theme in a set amount of time. Some but not all of the embellishments in the envelope given to each exhibitor **MUST** be used in some form on the pages. Exhibitors must provide their own theme-related photos and may bring their own materials, such as background paper, embellishments and tools needed for their project. The scrapbooking theme for this event is the Nebraska State Fair theme of "Showcase Your Fair Face".

Limited to the first 12 exhibitors open to Adult and Senior Youth. The event will be held Saturday, August 30th, 2025 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm in the 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse Stage. Exhibitors are encouraged to pre-register but if we have room we will allow walk ups to enter. Exhibitors will have 90 minutes to create their scrapbook page.

3001 Let's Get Scrappy – 12 spots available

Division 4431: Recycled Nebraska State Fair Ribbon Challenge

Each year the Nebraska State Fair awards hundreds of ribbons to winning exhibitors. Inevitably, there are leftover ribbons. To ensure that these ribbons do not go to waste, we are offering the Recycled Ribbon Challenge. Each participant can receive up to 250 State Fair ribbons. The ribbons are various sizes and colors.

The State Fair ribbons can be cut, sewn, painted, ripped, burned, or manipulated in any way that allows the desired effect, and they can be used to create any item imaginable. The ribbons may be made into a quilt, soft or hard sculpture, painting, mask, collage, or anything else! Materials used should be covered in ribbon. This does not include the poster board used for mounting, if applicable. Outside materials (additional ribbons, wood, flowers, etc.) should be only 20% of the piece. Entry may not exceed 30 inches in any direction. If an entry is a two-dimensional hanging item, it should be ready to hang.

Ribbons will need to be picked up from the Nebraska State Fair office or can be shipped at an additional charge to the exhibitor. Note that the exhibit must be created prior to the fair so be sure to have your ribbons on hand with plenty of time to create your masterpiece.

3101 Recycled Ribbon Challenge

Division 4432: Photo Prop Frame Contest: Showcase Your Fair Face

Ready, set, SMILE! In this creative contest, exhibitors will design and build a **Photo Prop Frame** to help fairgoers “Showcase Their Fair Face!” Using foam board or cardboard as the base, your frame can be 2D, pop with 3D elements, or both — just make sure it’s lightweight, easy to hold, and made to shine in a photo.

Rules & Guidelines:

- Size:
Start with a standard foam poster board (approximately 22” x 28”). You may cut, shape, or reinforce it — but the final piece must remain handheld and under 30” x 30”.
- Materials:
 - Poster board must be the base.
 - You can decorate with paper, paint, markers, fabric, foam, stickers, and lightweight 3D elements.
 - Keep it safe and manageable — frames must be easy to hold for a photo.
- Theme:
Include the title “Showcase Your Fair Face” on the design.
- Functionality:
Frames must include an open center or cutout large enough to clearly frame a face or small group of faces for photo-taking.

Judging Criteria:

- Creativity & Originality – 25 points
- Craftsmanship & Neatness – 25 points
- Photo-Readiness & Functionality – 25 points
- Use of Materials & Dimension – 25 points

Total: 100 Points

Bonus Info:

- All entries will be displayed for fairgoers to pose with in our “Showcase Your Fair Face” photo area!
- Select frames may also be featured on State Fair social media channels or used in future promotions — so bring your best, most camera-worthy design!
- You can sign the back of your frame — we want to give credit where it’s due!

3201 Photo Prop Frame

Division 4433: Chalk Art: Showcase Your Fair Face

Put your creativity on the pavement! In this one-day chalk art event, artists will be given a 5’x5’ space to create original chalk artwork inspired by the theme “Showcase Your Fair Face” Designs can feature people, animals, or imaginative characters — anything that puts a face to the fun and spirit of the Fair!

- Competition to be held Saturday, August 23rd between 10am-4pm.
 - South Side of 4-H/FFA Fieldhouse. If inclement weather, we will relocate.
- Artwork must be completed by 4 PM.
- All materials must be family-friendly.
- Artists to bring their own chalk/materials.
- Limited spaces available – 12 spots

3301 Chalk Art

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Sites

For Non-Perishable Exhibits

Please package each department's exhibits separately. For example, if you are entering both textile arts and photography, which belong to different departments, package them separately. Ensure a copy of your entry form is taped to the top of each package.

Important: We will not accept exhibits that are not properly packaged. We will make an effort to return your exhibits in the same packaging used for drop-off. To make transportation easier and safer, we recommend packaging your exhibits in a box.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Locations:

This year, exhibits can be dropped off and picked up at the following locations during the Extension Office's business hours:

Drop-Off Dates:

- Thursday, August 7th and Friday, August 8th, 2025

Pick-Up Dates:

- Monday, September 8th and Tuesday, September 9th, 2025
 - Must be picked up no later than September 9th.

Location Hours:

- **Lincoln/Logan/McPherson County Extension Office:**
348 West State Farm Rd, North Platte, NE 69101
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- **Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office:**
8015 West Center Rd, Omaha, NE 68124
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- **Seward County Extension Office:**
322 S. 14th St, Seward, NE 68434
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Reminder: Please bring a copy of your entry form(s) when dropping off your exhibits.