

The 2016 Congressional Art Competition

"An Artistic Discovery"

Facts

WHAT: The 35th Annual Congressional Art Competition, sponsored by the US Congress.

WHY: **"An Artistic Discovery"** provides Congress and the public with the opportunity to encourage and recognize the rich artistic talents of young Americans at a time when local organizations and art-in-education programs' budgets are being curtailed.

TIMETABLE: March 11: Registration forms due in Congressman Welch's Vermont office.

**March 22-
April 1:** Window to drop off artwork at one of the delivery sites listed on the directions for delivery page. Artwork submitted after April 1 is not guaranteed consideration in the competition.

May 2-6: Art show open at Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT.

May 9: Congressional Art Competition awards ceremony and reception.

May 24: Winning piece of art due in Washington, DC to be displayed with other Congressional District winners.

TBD: First place winner goes to Washington, DC for opening reception.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Originality
2. Clearly expressed content
3. Not reproduced from a third party's work
4. Not a violation of U. S. Copyright Laws

AWARD DISTRIBUTION: First place winner
Second place winner
Third place winner
Honorable mentions
Judges' Choice winners
Congressman Welch's choices
People's Choice

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2016 Congressional Art Competition Rules

Student Eligibility

Students must attend a high school, middle/high school, alternative school, vocational or technical school, or be a high school-level home school student. It is at the discretion of the school's art department whether artwork from middle level students at a combined middle/high school may be submitted.

A student must be a legal resident of Vermont for his or her artwork to be considered for First Place.

A non-resident student may submit artwork for consideration for another prize.

Artwork Eligibility

Entries must be flat and two-dimensional.

Entries must be **matted** or on **cardboard backing**.

Entries must not be framed.

Entries must not exceed dimensions of 26" x 26" x 4". **This includes the required matting or cardboard backing.** Artwork cannot weight more than 15 lbs.

Entries must fit within one of the following categories:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers, etc.
- Collage: must be two-dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed media: use of more than 2 mediums such as pencil, ink, paper, etc.
- Computer generated art
- Photography

Entries must be the student's original artwork and may not be a copy or print of the student's original. Artwork must not be reproduced from a third party's work. Entries must not be a violation of U.S. Copyright Law.

The label from the registration form must be **attached** to the entry.

Entries that do not meet these requirements may not be displayed or considered for certain awards.

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Suitability Guidelines

Please note the following House Office Building Commission guidelines for the display of winning art pieces in the U.S. Capitol:

"The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2013 Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in this highly travelled area leading to the Capitol.

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit."