



The 2021 Vermont Congressional Art Competition

“An Artistic Discovery”

- WHAT:** **U.S. Congressman Peter Welch** is delighted to host the 40th Annual Vermont Congressional Art Competition for high school students. The winning artwork of the competition, along with winning artwork from all participating districts across the country, will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. A selection of Vermont student artwork will also be exhibited in a virtual gallery.
- WHY:** **“An Artistic Discovery”** provides Congress and the public with the opportunity to encourage youthful creativity and vision by and for high school students.
- PARTNERS:** Congressman Welch would like to thank the Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA) for providing the online submission portal; the Vermont Arts Council for helping to identify and recruit Vermont judges; and the judges for donating their time and offering inspiration to Vermont’s young artists.
- TIMETABLE:** **April 18:** Entries must be submitted digitally at the Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA) website portal by Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Each submission must include a single entry and a completed Student Release Form, including typewritten signatures from the student, parent/guardian and art teacher. Only one entry per student is allowed.
- May 10:** Congressional Art Competition awards will be announced.
- TBD:** Winning piece of art due in Washington, DC to be displayed with other Congressional District winners.
- JUDGING CRITERIA:**
1. Artistic skill and originality
 2. Clearly expressed content
 3. Not reproduced from a third party's work or in violation of U. S. Copyright Laws
- AWARD DISTRIBUTION:**
- First place winner
 - Second place winner
 - Third place winner
 - Honorable mentions (by county)
- CONTACT:**
- Rebecca Ellis
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<https://welch.house.gov/services/art-competition>

2021 Vermont Congressional Art Competition Rules

Student Eligibility

- Students must attend a high school, alternative school, vocational or technical school, or be a high school-level home-school student.
- A student must be a legal resident of Vermont for his or her artwork to be considered for First Place.
- A non-resident student attending school in Vermont may submit artwork for consideration for another prize.

Artwork Eligibility

Entries must be flat and two-dimensional.

Entries must not exceed dimensions of 24" x 24" x 4". The winning piece, once framed, must be no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches in depth, and not weigh more than 15 pounds. If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, our office will work with you to frame the artwork and ship it to Washington DC.

Entries must fit within one of the following categories:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers, etc. (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
- Collage: must be two-dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed media: use of more than 2 mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated art
- Photographs

Entries must be the student's original artwork and may not be a copy or print of the student's original. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted.

Suitability Guidelines

Please note the following U.S. House Office Building Commission guidelines for the display of winning art pieces in the U.S. Capitol: "Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission (the Commission). In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed."

To Apply

Entries must be submitted digitally at the Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA) website portal no later than 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 18, 2021. The online submission must include a single entry and a completed Student Release Form. No entry will be considered submitted without a completed Student Release Form, including signatures from student, parent/guardian and art teacher. Only one entry per student is allowed.

Award Notification

Independent artist judges from across Vermont will choose the winners for the art competition. The first, second and third prize winners will be notified by Monday, May 10, 2021.

For Vermont High School Art Teachers

Please note the following changes from the Vermont art competition in previous years:

- Each student must submit a Student Release Form. Signatures may be typewritten.
- All pieces of artwork must be original. Copies of artwork are not allowed.
- Only one entry per student is allowed. There is no limit on the number of entries per high school.