

The 2018 Congressional Art Competition

“An Artistic Discovery”

Facts

- WHAT:** The 37th Annual Congressional Art Competition, sponsored by the US House of Representatives. The winning artwork of the competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. The exhibit in Washington will include the winning artwork from all participating districts from around the country.
- 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 23:** Registration forms due in Congressman Welch’s Vermont office.
 - April 2- April 13:** Window to drop off artwork at one of the delivery sites listed on the directions for delivery page. Artwork submitted after April 13 is not guaranteed consideration in the competition.
 - May 8-11:** Art will be on display for public viewing at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT.
 - May 14:** Congressional Art Competition awards ceremony and reception.
 - TBD:** 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. 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
 - Judges’ Choice winners
 - Congressman Welch’s choices
 - People’s Choice
- CONTACT:**
- Elizabeth Morris
Office of Congressman Welch
128 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 235
Burlington, VT 05401
(888) 605-7270 (toll free) or (802) 652-2450
Elizabeth.Morris@mail.house.gov
<https://welch.house.gov/services/art-competition>

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2018 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 24" x 24" x 4". This includes the required matting or cardboard backing. This is smaller than in previous years. Artwork cannot weight more than 15 lbs. (Please note that our requirements are slightly different from the national competition to allow for the winning piece to be framed.)

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.

Suitability Guidelines

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Please note the following 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.”

In further recognition of our talented Vermont student artists, the second and third place overall winners will have the option to exhibit their art in Congressman Welch’s Burlington, Vermont office following the show.