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# Art Division

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**\*Note: NO GLASS PROTECTIVE LAYER (on flat art) MAY BE USED. PLEXIGLAS MUST BE USED INSTEAD.** Artwork placed under protective glass and shipped to the NVCAF host VA facility **will forfeit their placement in the national competition** due to the risk of potential injury to persons unpacking the piece and potential damage to the artwork.

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## Art Division Rules

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1. Veterans need to communicate (as early as January 2021) with their local VA facility to find out their local competition deadline date.
2. **First-place ties in a category at the local competition MUST be re-judged at the local level as only one entry for each category will be accepted from each VA facility.** A formal competition is not required at the local level but is strongly encouraged. All eligible Veterans should be given the opportunity to participate regardless of degree of talent.
3. All artwork entered (except for the Military Combat Experience category #14) must have been **completed/photographed after April 1, 2020.** Artwork submitted in a prior year in any form of completion may not be entered again.
4. **Each VA facility may submit only one (1) entry in each art category** to the National level of the Art Competition.
5. Complete the art entry form with detail about the mediums and techniques used. This information is crucial to the judging process and is shared with the judges. Do not include Veteran diagnosis information or personal statements in the mediums/techniques section. This information is not part of the judging process unless submitting an entry into Military Combat Experience, Group Art, or the Special Recognition categories in which case a separate write-up is required.
6. Artwork created by a **group** of Veterans (two or more Veterans) **will qualify** for entry into the National Art Competition. **See Category #34 - Group Art.**
7. All art entries must be created solely by the Veteran and/or Veterans submitting the art entry.
8. Reproductions of original two-dimensional artwork, photographs, or computer-generated art (including inkjet, Giclee and other types of reproduction methods) will not be accepted. The use of Giclee is only acceptable in Printmaking (category 9), Black and White Photography (category 11), Color Photography (category 12) and Digital Art (category 13).
9. All paintings, drawings, watercolors, pastels, photographs, graphics, collages and digital art must be exhibition ready (ready to hang for display).

10. If an entry contains a craft kit, it must go into a craft kit category unless otherwise stated in the category definitions (for example: soapstone carving kits go into the carving category).
11. GUNS, BLADES, KNIVES or other WEAPONS will **not** be accepted due to VA regulations banning these items from VA facilities.
12. No one Veteran will be allowed to enter more than three art categories and one group category in the art division.
13. Dioramas, dipped art, and puzzles (including puzzle kits) will not be accepted. Diorama definition: a model representing a **SCENE** with three-dimensional figures. For further clarification please contact the national art chairpersons.
14. Sets in the fine arts and applied arts can contain **no more than three** pieces. Chess sets are an exception. The pieces must relate to one another in an obvious way to the judges in order to be classified as a set. **No sets** are allowed in the kit categories, unless a single kit contains a set such as a set of suncatcher Christmas ornaments in which case, no more than 3 pieces may be submitted for judging.

Further clarification of sets:

- Examples of 2D sets are diptychs, triptychs, or series—no more than 3 separate pieces of artwork that are clearly intended to be displayed together as ONE PIECE with equal size and framing. Imagery/content must relate to each other in clear and obvious way.
  - 3D sets must relate to each other in an obvious way and may contain no more than 3 pieces for judging purposes.
15. Entries that include personal collections such as spoons, medals, or coins (where the content of the entry is not created by the Veteran) will not be accepted.
  16. Entries that are first-place national competition winning pieces MUST be fully assembled when shipped.
  17. **Artwork Size Restrictions** - Each national art entry must be able to fit into **one box**. The box can be up to 150 lbs., up to 165 inches in length and girth combined. Length cannot exceed 108 inches. To measure packages use the following formula: **length + 2x width + 2x height**

**Step 1.** Determining Length - Measure the longest side of the package, rounding to the nearest inch. This is your length.

**Step 2.** Determining Girth (2x Width + 2x Height). Measure the width of the package, rounding to the nearest inch. Multiply this number by 2. Measure the height of the package, rounding to the nearest inch. Multiply this number by 2. Add these two numbers together. This is your girth.

**Step 3.** Add the length and the girth together. This is your package measurement.

***\*Entries that exceed the weight and measurements indicated above will be disqualified.***

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# Fine Art Categories & Military Combat Experience

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## Fine Art Sub-Division Categories:

1. **Acrylic Painting** - The creation of original work by applying acrylic paint to a surface. The surface is not limited to canvas; it can be on wood, plaster, leather, metal, glass, etc.
2. **Oil Painting** - The creation of original work by applying oil paint, oil sticks, **or oil pastels** to a surface. The surface is not limited to canvas; it can be on wood, plaster, leather, metal, etc.
3. **Watercolor** - The creation of work using watercolor paint. The surface is not limited to canvas; it can be on wood, plaster, leather, metal, etc.
4. **Monochromatic Drawing** - A monochromatic drawing consists of lines that use a **single** color and shades of that color that may be done using pencil, ink, charcoal, etc. Any use of additional color should be entered into colored drawing.
5. **Colored Drawing** - A colored drawing consists of lines of two or more colors and may be done using colored pencils, markers, etc.
6. **Pastels** - An art medium in the form of a stick, consisting of pure powder pigment and a binder. A pastel is usually a painting rather than drawing because the color is applied in masses rather than lines. Encaustic painting should be entered into this category.  
**Note: Oil pastels should be entered into Oil Painting.**
7. **Sculpture** - Art created by shaping, combining, modeling or casting materials such as plastic, clay, textiles, wax or polymers into a work of art. They may be free standing or relief.  
**Note: Carved sculptures should be entered into the Carving category, metal sculptures should be entered into the Metalwork category, and glass sculptures should be entered in the Glasswork category.**
8. **Pyrography** - A design burned into a surface by using wood burning tools. **The design must be original.** This process is typically done on wood but can also be done on leather and other surfaces. If transfers or tracings are used, the piece must be entered in the Transfer/Engraving Art Kit category.
9. **Printmaking** - A multiple-replica (more than one copy or print) art form. It consists of an original print or proof from a master plate created through such processes as lithography, etching, woodcut, engraving, etc. Computer graphics must be entered into Digital Art category.

- 10. Pottery** - A **functional** piece of fired ceramic ware (bowl, vase, pot, etc.) The form can be wheel-thrown or hand-built, not slip cast in a mold. Porcelain is included in this category. Slip cast ceramics belong in Glazed or Stained/Painted ceramics categories. Sculptural clay pieces should be entered into the Sculpture category.
- 11. Black and White Photography** - A monochromatic photograph using black and white and varying shades of grey or sepia tones. Photographs must be mounted and framed. This category includes both film and digital forms of photography. Sepia and other tonal prints such as cyanotypes (blueprints) should be submitted into this category.
- 12. Color Photography** - A color photograph. Photographs must be mounted and framed. This category includes both film and digital forms of photography.
- 13. Digital Art** - Art that was created using digital technology in the process of its creation. The work is created entirely with a computer and includes 2D graphics as well as 3D graphics. All original entries must be printed, mounted and framed to qualify for this competition. It is **required** that the software programs used be listed in the “mediums/techniques used” section of the entry form. **Use of Photoshop is not allowed for this category. Animation and videos will be disqualified.** \*Note: Digitally enhanced photography should not be entered into this category. Photography that has been digitally enhanced should be entered into either the Black and White Photography category or the Color Photography category.
- 14. Military Combat Experience** - The medium used must be a fine art or applied art medium. Unlike the other art categories, there are NO restrictions as to when the artwork was created however entries submitted previously into this category are not eligible to compete.

To enter this category there are **four requirements**:

- **A Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) composed by the Veteran and/or his VA staff contact person explaining how the art relates to the Veteran’s wartime experience. **Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.** *Judging for this category equally takes into consideration the written narrative as well as the skill involved in the artwork.*
- The Veteran must have experienced combat duty during World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, Gulf War, Grenada, Panama, Kosovo, Somalia and other recognized combats or current combat operations.
- The artwork must **relate to the Veteran’s personal experience in that war or conflict** but does not need to be a graphic representation of that combat experience.
- Consent forms 10-3203 and 10-5345 (included in this handbook) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

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# Applied Art Categories & Group Art Category

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## Applied Art Sub-Division Categories:

15. **Glazed Ceramics** - Clay pieces formed by pouring slip in a mold, bisque fired, and then finished with the application of glaze(s) and fired. Entries that contain bisque pieces that are painted and/or stained, as well as glazed, are to be entered into the painted ceramic category.
16. and finished with the application of stains or paints. **If firing is the last step when creating your piece, the piece must be entered into Glazed Ceramics.** Ceramics using both painting and glazing techniques should be entered into the stained or painted ceramics category.
17. **Woodworking** - This refers to pieces constructed of wood that may have a **functional/useful** purpose, such as a jewelry box, a chess set, a clock, etc. **Wood lathe work or wood turning is included in this category.**
18. **Carving - Decorative** art achieved by carving away unwanted materials from an original piece of material. It may be relief or in the round. Material used includes stone, wood, ivory and other hard substances. **Note: Soapstone carving kits are to be included in this category.**
19. **Jewelry (not beads)** - Jewelry pieces made through casting, channeling, lost-wax, wire wrapping, etc. Jewelry incorporating beads should be entered in the Beadwork category.
20. **Crocheting/Knitting** - The use of yarn or thread and a crochet hook, knitting needles or nifty knitters to create a pattern/design and is often a useful object.
21. **Mosaic** - The art of decoration with small pieces of colored glass, tile, stone or other hard material used to create a pattern or picture. Wood intarsia and marquetry are included in this category.
22. **Collage** - An artistic collage work may include newspaper clippings, ribbons, bits of colored or hand-made papers, portions of other artwork, photographs, and such, glued to a surface. Collage is two dimensional. Scrapbooks are not allowed.
23. **Assemblage** - A form of sculpture comprised of "found" objects arranged in such a way that they create a new piece. These objects can be anything organic or man-made. Assemblage is three dimensional. Personal collections alone (for example: coin collections, medal collections, etc.) will not be accepted. (Dioramas will not be accepted.)

- 24. Original Design in Needlework** - This includes stitchery, needlepoint, quilting, sewing a garment, soft sculpture, embroidery, cross stitch, and crewelwork, etc. These are *original designs created and completed entirely by the Veteran* that are usually worked on fabric (occasionally leather) with a needle to create a finished piece. It may be flat or three-dimensional. Pre-printed patterns on the fabric, the use of commercial patterns, charts or graphs should be entered in the Fabric Art Kit category or Needlework Kit category.
- 25. Original Design in Fiber Arts** - The use of a substance that can be separated into threadlike parts to create an **original** design in latch hook, rug punching, string art, basketry or weaving. Pre-printed patterns on the fabric, the use of commercial patterns, charts or graphs would be in the Latch Hook Kit category, Fabric Art Kit category, or Needlework Kit category.
- 26. Knotting** - Lacework made by knotting cords, thread or other fibers. Beads, shells or other decorative materials may be used. Macramé and fly tying are examples of techniques that are in the knotting category. Tatting is included in this category.
- 27. Leather Stamping** - Involves the use of shaped implements (stamps) to create an imprint onto a leather surface, often by striking the stamps with a mallet. Pre-cut leather pieces may be used. Kits are not accepted in this category. Kits that contain stamping should be entered into the Leather Kit category.
- 28. Leather Carving/Tooling** - Uses metal implements to compress moistened leather in such a way as to give a three dimensional appearance to a two dimensional surface. Pre-cut leather pieces may be used. The main tools used to "carve" leather include: Swivel knife, veiner, beveler, pear shader, seeder, cam, and backgrounder. The swivel knife is held like a pencil and dragged along the leather to outline patterns. The other tools are punch-type implements struck with a wooden or raw hide mallet. The object is to add further definition by them to the cut lines made by the swivel knife. Entries that contain both stamping and carving/tooling are to be entered into this category as well. Kits are not allowed in this category. Kits that contain leather carving/tooling should be entered into the Leather Kit category.
- 29. Metalwork** - The primary material used is metal. Tooling or punching a design or transfer, or metal assembled into a three-dimensional piece for decorative purposes are included in this category. Lathe work using metal is included in this category. Copper tooling should be entered into Transfer/Engraving Art Kit category.
- 30. Glasswork** - Glass is used as the primary medium. Examples would include stained glass, hand-blown glass, fused glass and glass etching and enameling. Commercially shaped glass items that have been painted would be in one of the Fine Arts Painting categories.
- 31. Beadwork** - Beads of any kind are used to create a design. Examples would include beaded jewelry, beaded belts or other items made on a beading loom, etc.
- 32. Scroll Saw/Fretwork** - Decorative open patterns cut out of wood or metal using a scroll saw and/or files.

**33. Mixed Media** - The distinct blending of two or more art techniques to create an object. The use of two or more **applied or fine arts** techniques (category types) in the creation of a single piece of art. *Entries in this category must include a description. **The types of art techniques (category types) must be identified on the entry form. Example: Painting, Sculpture, Carving.***

**34. Group Art Category** - A single art entry created by a group of Veterans. Groups in art **are not limited in number of group members**. However no more than 5 eligible invited Veterans from the first-place national competition winning entry in the Group Art category will be funded by the Festival. **Note: *Entries in this category must meet all size and weight restrictions.***

Entries in Group Art category **MUST** also include:

- **A Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) composed by a VA staff person and/or Veteran group members explaining the creative process, goals of the group, and other helpful information. **Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.** *Judging for this category equally takes into consideration the typed narrative as well as the skill involved in the artwork.*
- Consent forms 10-3203 and 10-5345 (included in this handbook) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

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# Craft Kit & Special Recognition Categories

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- Definition of a Kit entry: All materials needed to complete the project are supplied in the kit. Embellishments may be made to the assembled kit using non-kit items.
- Dioramas will not be accepted. Diorama definition: A model representing a SCENE with three-dimensional figures. For further clarification please contact the national art chairpersons.
- Entries containing more than one kit will be disqualified (with the exception of the combined kit category).

## Craft Kit Sub-Division Categories:

35. **Leather Kit** - A kit that comes pre-cut, pre-punched, pre-embossed and ready to finish, stain and/or lace.
36. **Wood Building Kit** - A wood kit that has a **useful function** such as birdhouses, carousels, cup racks, spice shelves, etc.
37. **Model Building (Plastic, Metal, Wood) Kit** - Snap together, glue together, or assembled plastic, metal, and/or wood **model** kits. (Diorama's will not be accepted. The definition of a diorama is a three-dimensional representation of a display or scene.)
38. **String Art Kit** - A kit that uses string to establish a design. This category includes dream catcher kits and beading kits that DO NOT involve the use of a needle.
39. **Latch Hook Kit** - A rug kit that comes in a unit with the right amount and color of yarn in the kit and the pattern already printed on the canvas.
40. **Craft Coloring Kit** - A pre-printed design on fabric, paper, wood, canvas, rugs, etc that the Veteran fills in with colors of their choice using colored pencils, markers, paint, etc.
41. **Figurine Painting Kit** - Pre-formed plaster, plastic, metal or wood 3 dimensional figures that the Veteran paints following a separate diagram and instructions included in the kit. There are no outlines on the piece indicating color application areas.
42. **Paint by Number Kit** - Involves applying oil, acrylic, or watercolor paints to the outlined numbered areas.
43. **Suncatcher or Sand Art Kit** - Suncatchers involve the application of transparent glass stains on a pre-formed and outlined plastic shape. Sand art involves colored sand applied to pre-shaped adhesive areas.
44. **Fabric Art Kit** - A kit that includes the use of commercial patterns and fabric (cloth or yarn) to create a pre-printed pattern or design. Cut-n-tuck kits would be included in this category.



45. **Needlework Kit** - A kit that utilizes yarn or thread applied with a needle to plastic, cloth or canvas. Embroider kits, crewel kits, needlepoint kits, etc., are in this category. Pieces created from pre-printed designs, the use of commercial patterns and graphs qualify for this category. ***Note: Beading kits that involve the use of a needle are to be included in this category.***
46. **Transfer/Engraving Art Kit** - Copper tooling kits, foil scratch art kits and wood burning kits are included in this category which involves incising images, designs or patterns onto a surface by rubbing, scratching, burnishing, cutting or burning.
47. **Mosaic Kit** - A kit that uses small pieces of colored glass, plastic, tile, stone or other hard material to create a pre-printed pattern or picture. Woodscapes and Pixel Art would be included in this category.
48. **Combined Kit** - The integration of two or more **distinctly different** kits to create a **single** work of art. A collection of model cars or ornaments, etc. will not be accepted.

### **Special Recognition Categories**

The **Special Recognition category of the visual arts division is divided into two separate categories.** The intent of these categories is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. Entries and their accompanying written statement/narrative from the Veteran's VA staff contact person should focus on how the arts are used by the individual(s) to rise above severe limitations. ***Judging for this category equally takes into consideration the written narrative as well as the skill involved in the artwork.*** Entries submitted into the Art Special Recognition categories could be in the Fine Arts, Applied Arts, or Kits division.

49. **Special Recognition Physical Disability** - Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the visual arts while possessing significant ***physical limitations***.
50. **Special Recognition Mental Health Challenges** - Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the visual arts while possessing significant ***emotional or mental health challenges***.

Entries in each of the two Special Recognition categories **MUST** also include:

- **A Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) composed by a VA staff person or the Veteran explaining why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition. **Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.**
- Consent forms 10-3203 and 10-5345 (included in this handbook) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

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# Sample Art Judging Criteria

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- **Creativity/Originality** – Exhibits creativity and expression in the design.
- **Skill** – Use of materials and artistry.
- **Total Presentation** – Consider the elements of art: line, space, color, form, media, texture, composition, balance, and unity. Also consider title, mounting, and framing.

Point suggestion: 1 = poor/weak, 2 = moderate, 3 = good, 4 = strong, 5 = excellent

## Sample Art Judging Score Sheet

<b>Category Number and Name:</b>
<b>Title of Piece:</b>

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>POINTS</b>				
<b>Creativity/Originality</b>	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Skill</b>	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Total Presentation</b>	1	2	3	4	5

**TOTAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: References to diagnosis and explanations of emotional or personal content related to the entry or Veteran should not be communicated to the judges. The exception to this rule is an entry submitted into a category that require a write-up.