

The 2026 Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge

How to Enter

No purchase required. This Challenge is open to Canadian residents only and is governed by Canadian law.

Entry to the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge consists of:

- A completed submission form signed by all necessary parties.
- An original artist statement authored by the student artist.
- A high-resolution photographic image of the student's original artwork.
- A high-resolution photographic image of the student with their original artwork, taken in landscape orientation with a neutral background.
- A clear articulation of which thematic category the applicant is submitting to (Symbols of Canada; Landscapes in Canada; Canadian Pastimes; Canadian Teams; and Portraits of Canadians).

To be valid, entries must be received by no later than April 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (EDT).

Eligibility

This Challenge is open to submissions of original student artworks by all Canadian residents enrolled in school (from Grade 7 to Grade 12), including those enrolled in home school.

In cases where contestants have not reached the age of majority in their province, parent or guardian consent is necessary to enter the Challenge.

The following individuals are not eligible:

- a. Family members of employees of the Art Canada Institute.
- b. Family members of the Judging Panel.

Your Entry

Your entry includes any and all content you submit in connection with the Challenge (text, image, file uploads, and/or hyperlinks).

The following kind of content is prohibited:

- a. Offensive and likely to expose an individual or a group of individuals to hatred or contempt on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, age or disability.
- b. Pornography, vulgarity, obscenity or sexually explicit content.
- c. Anything illegal.
- d. Hate speech.
- e. Threats, harassment.
- f. Threats or suggesting committing a criminal act.
- g. Profane, libellous, defamatory, threatening, insulting or promoting any activities that may be illegal, inappropriate, unsafe, dangerous or socially irresponsible.
- h. Infringement upon any person's, entity's or organization's personal or proprietary rights, including but not limited to, intellectual property rights.

Any entry deemed by the Art Canada Institute to be in violation of the above prohibitions or otherwise inappropriate will be disqualified by the Art Canada Institute in its sole and absolute discretion.

This initiative supports the creation of original artworks and artist statements. Any artwork entry or artist statement that includes plagiarised or AI-generated content is strictly prohibited and will be disqualified from the Student Challenge.

All content submitted to the Art Canada Institute will not be returned to you.

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Procedure for Awarding Prizes

A judging panel will review shortlisted submissions during the Challenge Period and select winners for the following categories based upon the following criteria:

Categories:

- Grades 7 to 9
- Grades 10 to 12

Criteria:

- Creativity of a response to a Canadian artwork
- Visual impact of the project
- Strength of the artist statement, including articulation of artistic intent and link to an existing Canadian artist or artwork

Description of Prizes:

In each category, first place winners will receive \$500. Honourable Mention prizes will be awarded across both categories, valued at \$250 each.

Winning artworks will be showcased at Art Toronto from October 29 - November 1, 2026.

General Rules

1. By entering the Challenge, you:
 - a. declare you have read, agree to and have complied with the Challenge Rules;
 - b. declare you meet all criteria to enter the Challenge.
 - c. declare that all submitted materials are original and created by you.
2. If the prize cannot be awarded as described in these Rules, the Art Canada Institute reserves the right to substitute a prize or prize component with another of comparable value, as determined in their sole discretion.
3. In the event of a dispute or complaint regarding whether an entry contravenes the Challenge Rules, you may be required to provide proof (in a form

acceptable to the Art Canada Institute) that your entry should be deemed eligible. If the Art Canada Institute determines (in its sole discretion) that an entry contravenes the Challenge Rules, the entry will be automatically disqualified from the Challenge.

4. The decisions of the Art Canada Institute with respect to all aspects of this Challenge are final and binding on all entrants without right of appeal, including, without limitation, any decisions regarding the eligibility/ disqualification of entrants and/or entries.
5. The Art Canada Institute reserves the right to amend the Challenge Rules or to terminate the Challenge at any time without any liability to any contestant. Any amendments to these Challenge Rules will be posted on the Website.
6. The Art Canada Institute assumes no liability for any loss, damage or injury, without limitation.
7. The Art Canada Institute reserves the right to cancel or suspend this Challenge in its sole discretion for any reason.
8. Personal information collected at the point of entry is collected by the Art Canada Institute and will be stored and used by the Art Canada Institute solely for the purposes of administering this Challenge as well as for any other purpose you may have opted into at the time of entry. By providing your personal information, you expressly consent to these terms.
9. By entering, you agree to abide by the Challenge Rules and the decisions of the Art Canada Institute and/or the Judging Panel, which decisions are final and binding on all contestants.

Accessibility

If you have any accessibility requirements or special needs in relation to this Challenge, please contact the challenge coordinator through the [challenge webpage](#).