



September 2026

Hello Teachers! We are excited to announce the details for Rockford Art Museum's 86th Annual Young Artist Show: High School Division.

The high school division of the Young Artist Show will be held from Sunday, February 21 through Sunday, March 21, 2027. The public opening will happen on February 21 from 12-2 PM (awards presented at 1 PM).

The submission process will be fully digital using Google Forms for this **juried show**. Works to be exhibited and awards will be selected by an outside juror and RAM staff. **High Schools with over 250 students** enrolled in their art programs will be allowed to submit **50 pieces** for jurying and art programs with **less than 250 students** will be allowed to submit **30 pieces**. **Homeschools will be allowed to enter no more than 2 pieces per student.**

In the following pages, you will find all the submission requirements and important deadlines for the High School Division, but here are a few dates to mark on your calendars:

Applications are currently open online

January 11 – Digital submissions due at midnight

January 20 – Teachers will be emailed notification of selected pieces by 5 PM

January 21–February 3 (closed January 25 and February 1) – Artwork drop-off

February 21 – High School Division Opening from 12-2 PM, awards announced at 1 PM

March 21 – Last day of High School Division Exhibition

March 22 - April 4 (closed March 29) – Artwork pick-up at Rockford Art Museum (note extended pick up window to account for Spring Break)

We truly appreciate your dedication to your students and the hard work you put in to give them this opportunity to be recognized. We're looking forward to another year of great artwork, excellent students, and a wonderful exhibition! Please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Axelson

Operations Manager + Graphic Design

saxelson@rockfordartmuseum.org

High School Division: February 21—March 21, 2027

Submission deadline: January 11, 2027

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Entries are accepted from students who attend Illinois or Wisconsin public, private, or home schools, grades 9–12, within a 50-mile radius of Rockford Art Museum.
- Schools whose art department enrollment **exceeds 250** students may submit **50** entries; art departments with **less than 250** students enrolled may submit **30** entries for jurying.
- Homeschool high-schoolers can submit two pieces per student.
- No student may enter more than 2 pieces (with the exception of the senior portfolio).
- **Please make sure ANY senior work (including work that will be used in a portfolio submission) is ALSO included in your school's submission if you want it judged separately.** Portfolio submissions will not automatically be included in the overall exhibition (page 5).

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS:

1. Artwork may be made of any media and **must** have been completed during the past calendar year (except for senior portfolio entries, page 5).
2. Digital artwork must be labeled by the program in which it was created.
3. Artwork must be original. Do not submit work based on published commercial photography or artwork.
4. Prints of original artwork will not be accepted.
5. No piece should measure over 24 x 36 inches, including the mat/mount. Any work over this size will not be displayed.
6. Rockford Art Museum will print wall labels for all pieces, please do not add labels to the front of work.
7. Rockford Art Museum handles work with care, but cannot be held liable for any damages.
8. Artwork should only be mounted, not framed.

JURYING:

Juror is selected by Rockford Art Museum staff based on their credentials. They have teaching experience, an understanding of high school/college work, and experience creating and exhibiting their own work. Jurors use these criteria to determine acceptance and awards: imagination, originality, composition, craftsmanship, technique, and content.

AWARDS:

- **(1) Portfolio Scholarship Award** is awarded to a senior for a complete portfolio, see page 5 for guidelines.
- **(1) Women's Art Board Scholarship** is awarded to a senior for a single exceptional piece.
- **(1) Best of Show, (1) Best of 2-D, and (1) Best of 3-D** are awarded to students for a single, exceptional piece.
- **(5) Merit Awards** will be selected by Rockford Art Museum staff.
- **(2) Merit Awards** will be selected by the Juror.
- **(5) Honorable Mention Awards** will be selected by the Juror.

OPENING:

Opening day will be **Sunday, February 21, 2027 from 12:00-2:00pm at Rockford Art Museum**. Award winners will be announced to the public at the opening at 1 PM. Teachers will be notified by email prior to the opening if any of their students have received an award so they may encourage them to attend.

Digital Submission Requirements

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1. Artwork must be submitted through an Illinois or Wisconsin public, private or homeschool high school.
2. **Submit 1 submission form per school.** Do not submit separate forms for different teachers.
3. Submissions will be made via Google Forms. You can find a hyperlink to this form at rockfordartmuseum.org/education/teachers or by typing this link into your browser: bit.ly/YAS-HS-2027.
4. After you fill out the form, upload your images, and hit submit, please be patient. Sometimes submitting large quantities of files takes a little while. Try not to exit out of the page until you get a confirmation message.

IMAGE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Images must be documented well, meaning:
 - Image is cropped so that only the artwork is visible (no walls, thumbtacks, etc.)
 - Image is an accurate representation of the physical artwork (not too bright or dark)
 - Photo editing software can be used only to make the image a more accurate representation of actual art work, never to enhance.
 - Sculpture is photographed on a clean, plain background.
2. Images must be saved as jpegs (jpeg/jpg).
3. In the "Image Upload" section of the Google Form, make sure all images are named with the name of the school, an underscore, and an ID number. Example:

School Name_ID#.filetype

[Jefferson_01.jpg](#)

4. In the "Student Artwork Information" section of the Google Form, please list the ID number (corresponding with the uploaded image), student's name, grade, artwork title, medium, and dimensions. Details **must be listed in that order**. Example:

ID #: Student Name, Grade, Title, Medium, Dimensions

[01: John Maguire, 10, The Masked Temple, gouache on paper, 24" x 18"](#)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

All work must be submitted by midnight on **January 11, 2027**. To be accepted, submissions must comply with above sizing, naming, and description requirements.

Questions? Please email Sarah at saxelson@rockfordartmuseum.org.

Accepted Work

ACCEPTED WORK:

- 2-D work **MUST** be matted and backed with foam core or cardboard for strength. Mats must be clean and sturdy. Attach art securely within the mat to the backing board. No construction paper mats accepted. Work should not be framed. Photographs of the original work will not be accepted.
- All artwork must be ready to display. Small nails or clips will be used; all work needs to be ready to hang
- Selected artwork must remain on view for the duration of the exhibition—**Seniors applying for other portfolio scholarships or AP credit should keep this in mind when submitting work for the Young Artist Show.** If, for any reason, the accepted art is no longer available to be displayed it cannot be substituted.
- Rockford Art Museum may refuse to exhibit work that does not follow these guidelines.

ACCEPTED WORK DROP-OFF:

- Artwork ID card template and inventory sheet are available to download on our website rockfordartmuseum.org/education/teachers.
- Work can be dropped off to Rockford Art Museum January 21–February 3 (closed January 25 and February 1). **Art dropped off after February 3 will not be accepted into the show** (unless prior arrangements are made).

ACCEPTED WORK PICK-UP:

- Pick-up work March 22–April 4 (closed March 28 and 29) at Rockford Art Museum. **All work must be picked up by April 4.** We will be unable to store any artwork after this date (unless prior arrangements are made).

Senior Portfolio Scholarship Award

Submission deadline: January 11, 2027

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. It's recommended that students submit their own portfolios through Google Forms, but teachers can aid in the submission process.
2. Each portfolio can contain up to 5 pieces and must be submitted by high school seniors only.
3. These portfolios will be considered entirely separate from the Young Artist Show exhibition. **If there are pieces from the portfolio that you want to submit as part of your school's allotted number, you must submit them as part of both the general submission AND the Senior Portfolio Submission.**
4. The **Portfolio Scholarship Award** will be presented to one senior based upon the overall strength, consistency and quality of their portfolio. The winning portfolio will be displayed in its entirety in the Young Artist Show High School Division and will need to follow the "Accepted Work" guidelines outlined in the general submission details (see page 4).

SUBMISSION:

1. Each portfolio must be submitted as a separate Google Form.
2. Submissions will be made via Google Forms. You can access the submission form at rockfordartmuseum.org/education/teachers or by typing this link into your browser: bit.ly/2027-portfolios

IMAGE REQUIREMENTS:

1. In the "Senior Portfolio Upload" section of the Google Form, make sure all images are named with the name of the school, an underscore, the name of the student, another underscore, and an ID number. Example:

School Name_Student Name_ID#.filetype

Jefferson_Mia Katz_01.jpg

2. In the "Portfolio Artwork Details" section of the Google Form, list the artwork's title, medium, and dimensions in correspondence with the appropriate ID number. Example:

ID #: Title, Medium, Dimensions

01: The Masked Temple, Gouache on paper, 12" x 18"

QUESTIONS POSED TO SENIORS:

Seniors competing for the Senior Portfolio Scholarship Award will need to answer a series of questions related to their art and educational plans.

AWARD:

The Portfolio Scholarship Award will be announced at the opening on February 21.

Thank You!