



September 2026

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

The exhibition will open on Sunday, April 4 and be on view through Sunday, May 2, 2027. Public Opening will happen on Sunday, April 4 from 12-2 PM (awards presented at 1 PM).

The submission process will be fully digital using Google Forms and every school must submit a form. Elementary schools are allowed 6 entries (no more than one 3-D work); middle schools are allowed 8 entries (no more than two 3-D pieces); homeschools are allowed 1 submission per student.

Applications are now open

March 8 – Digital submissions due **(you must submit student work through the digital form)**

March 9 – 17 (closed March 15) – Artwork drop-off at Rockford Art Museum

April 4 – Youth Division Opening from 12-2 PM (awards announced at 1 PM)

May 2 – Last day of Youth Division Exhibition

May 3 – May 16 (closed May 10) – Artwork pick-up at Rockford Art Museum

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

General Information

Youth Division: April 4–May 2

Submission deadline: March 8, 2027

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Entries are accepted from students who attend public, private, or homeschools in **Winnebago County** serving grades K-8.
- Respective art teachers select the pieces to be included in the exhibition.
- Grade school submission limit: **6 entries per school** (no more than one 3-D piece)
- Middle school submission limit: **8 entries per school** (no more than two 3-D pieces)
- Homeschool submission limit: **1 per student**
- Selected work must remain on view for the duration of the exhibit.

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS:

- Entries may be any media and must have been completed during the past calendar year.
- No piece should measure over 18 x 24 inches, including the mat/mount. Any work over this size will not be displayed.
- **All entries must be ready to display.** Please mat or mount all 2-D entries with construction paper, cardstock, tag board or mat board. No picture frames will be accepted.
- In order to showcase a wide variety of works, please avoid submitting 2 or more pieces from the same assignment.
- Rockford Art Museum will print wall labels for all pieces, please do not add labels to the front of work.
- Rockford Art Museum handles work with care, but cannot be held liable for any damages.

OPENING:

Opening day will be on **Sunday, April 4, 2027 from 12:00-2:00pm at Rockford Art Museum**. Awards will be presented at 1 PM (schools with award-winning students will be notified prior to the opening so they can encourage those students to attend).

Submission Requirements

DIGITAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Schools with both elementary and middle school levels should submit two separate forms.
- Schools with only K-5, only middle school, or homeschools should submit only one form.
- Schools should pick one primary contact person and an optional secondary contact person.
- 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-Y-2027.
- Submit all of your school's artwork via Google Forms at **one time**.
- *OPTIONAL:* 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 webpage until you get a confirmation message.

- **IMAGE REQUIREMENTS:** If you would like your students work considered for the brochure or other promotional materials, please follow these guidelines. **You are not required to provide images.**

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. All 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

1. 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, and medium. Details **must be listed in that order.** Example:

ID #: Student Name, Grade, Title, Medium

01: John Maguire, 1, The Masked Temple, gouache on paper

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

All work must be submitted by midnight on **Monday, March 8, 2027**. To be accepted, submissions must comply with above sizing, naming, and description requirements.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

ACCEPTED WORK DROP-OFF:

- Work can be dropped off to Rockford Art Museum March 9-17, 2027 (closed Monday, March 15). **Art dropped off after March 17 will not be accepted into the show** (unless prior arrangements are made).

ACCEPTED WORK PICK-UP:

- Pick-up work May 3-16 (closed May 10) at Rockford Art Museum. **All work must be picked up by May 16.** We will not be able to store any artwork after this date (unless prior arrangements are made).

Thank You!