

---

# Art Division Rules



**New!**

1. All CD's containing the electronic JPEG images and forms for the 2017 National Art Competition **MUST BE POSTMARKED by midnight of Friday, March 31, 2017.**
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 #7) must have been **completed after April 1, 2016.**
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 as much detail about the process, medium or materials used as possible.*** This information is shared with the judges while they are scoring each entry.
6. Artwork created by a **group** of Veterans (two or more Veterans) **will qualify** for entry into the National Art Competition. **See category #35 (Group Art), page 38 in the Applied Art Division section.**
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 Graphics (category 10), Black and White Photography (category 12), Color Photography (category 13) and Digital Art (category 14).
9. **All paintings, drawings, watercolors, pastels, photographs, graphics, collages and digital art must be framed and ready to hang for display.**
10. Sets in the fine arts and applied arts can contain **no more than three** pieces. 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 or a chess set in which case, no more than 3 pieces may be submitted for judging.
11. 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).
12. It is required that if the piece is placed under a clear protective layer, that **Plexiglas** be used. Pieces placed under glass will be disqualified due to the risk of potential damage should the piece be shipped as a first place national competition winning piece to the Festival host site.

13. Working GUNS, KNIVES or other WEAPONS will **not** be accepted due to VA regulations banning these items from VA facilities.
14. **Electronic image files in JPEG** format of the art entries on a **CD** will be accepted as well as uploading the image(s) to the NVCA Competition SharePoint site <https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>.



**New!**

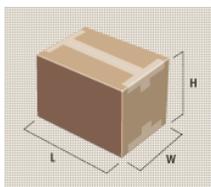
15. **Two** electronic jpeg images may be submitted for each two-dimensional entry. Please include one image of the art entry in its entirety and one image of the art entry in more detail.



**New!**

16. **Three** electronic jpeg images for each three-dimensional entry will be accepted. Please include one image from the front of the art entry in its entirety, one image from the back or side of the art entry in its entirety, and one image of the art entry close up in more detail.

17. No one Veteran will be allowed to enter more than three art categories and one group category in the art division.
18. 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.
19. No puzzles, including puzzle kits will be accepted.
20. **Dioramas will not be accepted.** Diorama definition: a model representing a scene with three-dimensional figures.
21. Entries that are first place national competition winning pieces **MUST** be fully assembled when shipped.
22. **VA staff contact persons:** Please explain to the Veterans entering the art division competition that their **artwork will be required to be available through the local and national competition process (February through April).** All art entries that are selected as first place winners of the national competition in April will need to be shipped in May to Buffalo, New York.
23. **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.**

---

# Submitting Electronic Digital Image Files

Upload images to the NVCA Competition SharePoint site:

<https://vaww.vishn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition> OR [submit images](#) on a CD in JPEG format or. **CD's sent to the national level of competition cannot be returned. Please make duplicate copies of the images and all paperwork for your records.**

## Image/CD Requirements

- Images must be uploaded to the NVCA Competition site or submitted on a CD in JPEG format.
- The file size must not exceed 1MB. The maximum horizontal dimension is 1024 pixels and the maximum vertical dimension is 768 pixels.
- The images will be displayed for judging using data projectors using sRGB color space and accordingly it is recommended that submitted art images use the same.
- **Station numbers** for naming JPEG files are listed on pages 19-23.

Image file naming: **Categorynumber**hyphen**imagetitle**(abbreviation – first 5 letters of title)hyphen**Veteran initials**hyphen**StationNumber**.jpg Use capital letters for image title and use small letters for artist initials (first and last name only). For example, the JPEG image of an oil painting titled “Sands of Time” created by John Doe from the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System in Prescott would be named:

**02-SANDS-jd-649.jpg**

Image file naming format:

*Category number-first 5 letters of title-Veteran initials-station number.jpg*

- Two jpeg images may be submitted for entries that are **two-dimensional**. Label the **second** image with the number 2 following the **first four letters** of the title. For example: **02-SAND2-jd-649.jpg**



**New!**

Second image file naming format:

*Category number-first 4 letters of title2-Veteran initials-station number.jpg*

- Three jpeg images may be submitted for entries that are **three-dimensional**. Label the **third** image with the number 3 following the **first four letters** of the title. For example: **02-SAND3-jd-649.jpg**



**New!**

Third image file naming format:

*Category number-first 4 letters of title3-Veteran initials-station number.jpg*

- **For Group Art entries omit** Veterans' initials. For example, the entry above submitted into the Group Art category would be named: **35-SANDS-649.jpg**

Group Art image file naming format:

*Category number-first 5 letters of title-station number.jpg*

**Do not use any spaces when naming the images.**

---

# Veterans Day Poster Submissions

The Veterans Day Poster is *not* a category within the National Veterans Creative Arts competition. However, Veterans who wish to submit *electronic jpeg images* for consideration of the 2017 Veterans Day Poster should submit the jpeg image, Art Entry Form (pages 45-46), and signed 2 page Consent for Production and Use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA (pages 49-50) to:



**Nadene Stillings (OT1)**  
National Fine Art Co-Chairperson  
ENRM Veterans Hospital  
200 Springs Road (Bldg. 4, Rm. B32)  
Bedford, MA 01730  
Email: [Nadene.Stillings@va.gov](mailto:Nadene.Stillings@va.gov)

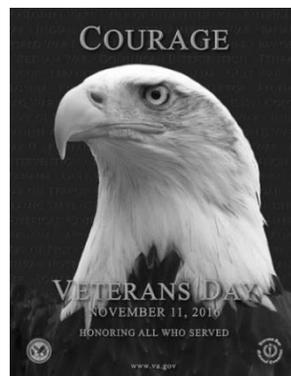
The criteria for submitting an electronic digital JPEG image of artwork for consideration as the Veterans Day Poster is as follows:

- The medium used must be a **fine art** or **applied art** medium.
- Patriotic imagery that conveys the “honoring all who served” theme is appropriate. This would include the old standbys such as flags and eagles. Adding to this concept is encouraged.

**Note:** The Veterans Day National Committee will also be reviewing artwork from other artist sources and that it is not guaranteed that one of the submissions via the National Veterans Creative Arts Program will be the one selected as the 2017 poster. The committee will review and select the artwork for the poster in May, 2017.

If chosen, the artist agrees to relinquish any and all rights to the poster. The poster will become public domain and will be used for Veterans Day purposes.

To view Veterans Day Posters from previous years, visit the Veterans Day website at: <http://www.va.gov/vetsday> and click on “Poster Gallery.”



---

# Fine Art Categories 1-7



**Note: Fine Art categories have been renumbered. Please look at the categories and art chairperson's closely before submitting entries to the national level of competition.**

**Fine Art Chairperson for Categories 1-7:**

**Nadene Stillings (OT1)**

National Fine Art Co-Chairperson  
ENRM Veterans Hospital  
200 Springs Road (Bldg. 4, Rm. B32)  
Bedford, MA 01730



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 (2).
7. **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. Entries in the Military Combat Experience category will be submitted to **Nadene Stillings, National Art Chairperson**. To enter this category there are four requirements:
  - 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.
  - A **written statement/narrative explaining how the art relates** to the Veteran's wartime experience, composed by the Veteran and/or his VA staff contact person of 25 to 225 words **must be included with each entry**.
  - **Form 10-5345 – 1 page (Request For and Consent to Release Medical and Health Information) signed by the Veteran** must be included with entry (page 51).

---

# Fine Art Categories 8-15

Fine Art Chairperson for Categories 8-15: **Melissa Mazzio ATR-BC, LCAT**  
National Fine Art Co-Chairperson  
VA Medical Center  
Building 14 Room 17 - Art Therapy Clinic  
2094 Albany Post Road  
Montrose, NY 10548



8. **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 Carving category (19), metal sculptures should be entered into the Metalwork category (30), and glass sculptures should be entered in the Glasswork category (31).
9. **Original Design in 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 (47).
10. **Graphics** - 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 (14).
11. **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 category 16 or 17. Sculptural clay pieces should be entered into the Sculpture category (8).
12. **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.
13. **Color Photography** - A color photograph. Photographs must be mounted and framed. This category includes both film and digital forms of photography.
14. **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. **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 (12) or the Color Photography category (13).
15. **Fine Art, Mixed Media** - The use of two or more fine arts techniques in the creation of a single piece of **fine art**. Using two types of paint (oil and acrylic) DOES NOT constitute a “mixed media” piece.

---

# Applied Art Categories

Applied Art Chairperson for Categories 16-35:

**Karen Wait** (117/JB)  
National Applied Art Chairperson  
VA Medical Center  
#1 Jefferson Barracks Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63125

16. **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.
17. **Stained or Painted Ceramics** - Clay pieces formed by pouring slip in a mold, fired into bisque ware 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.
18. **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.**
19. **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.**
20. **Jewelry (not beads)** - Jewelry pieces made through casting, channeling, lost-wax, wire wrapping, etc. Jewelry incorporating beads should be entered in the Beadwork (category 32).
21. **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.
22. **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.
23. **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.

24. **Assemblage** - A form of sculpture comprised of "found" objects arranged in such a way that they create a 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.
25. **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 (45) or Needlework Kit category (46).
26. **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 (40), Fabric Art Kit category (45), or Needlework Kit category (46).
27. **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.
28. **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. Kits are not accepted in this category. Kits that contain stamping should be entered into the Leather Kit category (36).
29. **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. 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 (36).
30. **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 (47).
31. **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.

32. **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.
33. **Scroll Saw/Fretwork** - Decorative open patterns cut out of wood or metal using a scroll saw and/or files.
34. **Applied Art, Mixed Media** - The distinct blending of two or more applied arts techniques to create an object.
35. **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 8 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 written statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) by a VA staff person and/or Veteran group members that should include an explanation of the creative process, goals of the group, mediums/techniques used and any other useful information. *Judging for this category equally takes into consideration the written narrative as well as the skill involved in the artwork.*
- **Form 10-5345 – 1 page (Request For and Consent to Release Medical Records or Health Information)** signed by the Veteran (page 51)

---

# Kit Categories

## Kit Category and Special Recognition Chairperson for categories 36-51:



**Kari Fritz**  
National Craft Kit Chairperson  
Geriatrics and Extended Care (654/18)  
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System  
975 Kirman Avenue  
Reno, NV 89502

**Definition of a Kit Category entry** = All materials needed to complete the project are supplied in the kit.

**Note:** No puzzles, including puzzle kits will be accepted.

***Only ONE KIT PER ENTRY.***

***Entries containing more than one kit will be disqualified  
(with the exception of Category #49 – Combined Kits).***

36. **Leather Kit** – A kit that comes pre-cut, pre-punched, pre-embossed and ready to finish, stain and/or lace.
37. **Wood Building Kit** - A wood kit that has a **useful function** such as birdhouses, carousels, cup racks, spice shelves, etc.
38. **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 3 dimensional representation of a display or scene.)
39. **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.
40. **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.
41. **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.
42. **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.
43. **Paint by Number Kit** - Involves applying oil, acrylic, or watercolor paints to the outlined numbered areas.

44. **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.
45. **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.
46. **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.***
47. **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.
48. **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.
49. **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.

### **Visual Arts 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 but should be sent to **Kari Fritz, National Art Chairperson.**

50. **Special Recognition PD (physical disability)** - Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the visual arts while possessing significant ***physical limitations***.
51. **Special Recognition MH (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 written statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) by a VA staff person or the Veteran of why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition
- **Form 10-5345 – 1 page (Request For and Consent to Release Medical Records or Health Information)** signed by the Veteran (page 51)

# Art Judging Criteria and Score Sheet

Judges at the 2017 National level of competition will be ranking each art entry according to merit in the following criteria:

- **Creativity/Originality** - artistic expression and uniqueness of perspective and execution.
- **Skill** - the ability exhibited through all aspects of the creative process.
- **Total Presentation** - continuity and completeness. Factors considered include title, mounting, framing, etc.

## Art Judging Score Sheet

<b>Category Number:</b>		<b>Category Name:</b>	
<b>Title of Piece:</b>			
<b>Size of art piece</b> in inches: <i>(Must meet size criteria as stated in Rule 23, page 31)</i>	<b>Length:</b>	<b>Width:</b>	<b>Height:</b>
<b>Materials/mediums used. Software program/programs used for Digital Art entries.</b>			
<b>For Craft Kits, please describe enhancements/techniques used:</b>			

CRITERIA	POINTS				
<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:** \_\_\_\_\_