



2021
NATIONAL
VETERANS
CREATIVE ARTS
FESTIVAL

EASTERN COLORADO
VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
LOCAL COMPETITION

Art Division
Handbook

Presented by

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



American Legion
Auxiliary

Message from the Director

While COVID-19 continues to impact our lives daily, we know the benefits of creating art can have far reaching effects on one's overall health and well-being. Studies show that spending time on a creative arts project can relieve stress, strengthen thinking skills and improve memory. Through art you can inspire and encourage others. No matter how far apart we are, art can help us to relax and bring us closer together.

The 2021 local creative arts competitions may look different this year. Each VA facility is taking preventative measures out of concern for the safety and well-being of Veterans, including visitors and staff at VA facilities. There may not be in-person art/writing/performance shows taking place this year on VA campuses. Veterans may need to submit their own images, videos, and text to the VA staff contact persons rather than dropping things off in person.

The following are competition rules and categories. There **are many changes** in the competition handbook this year. Please take the time to review this handbook carefully. If you have further questions or need assistance, you may contact the national chairpersons or me at any time.

Veterans, we thank you for sincerely for sharing your creativity with us and staff, we thank you for supporting Veterans in their creative endeavors.

Amy Kimbler, MT-BC
Director, National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) LOCAL COORDINATORS FOR EASTERN COLORADO

Sarah El Hage
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VHAECHRMRArtCommittee@va.gov

2021 Timeline

February 12 – Applications due for RMR Art Display (This is not the competition, display at RMR only)

February 23 at 1:00-2:30pm - Virtual Informational NVCAF Meeting

Call (404) 397- 1596 , enter code 1992809978# then # again when prompted to put in a moderator code

February 25 – RMR Art Display Rotation (This is not the competition, display at RMR only)

Creative Arts Local Competition Applications accepted between February 25 – June 11, 2021

- All paperwork including entries for art, creative writing, dance, music, and drama due June 11
- Physical artwork entries must be at VA on or before June 24
- Assistance with filming for dance, music and drama is available during this timeframe (RSVP required)

June 11 – Application paperwork due

June 24 - Drop off art entries at RMRVAMC Auditorium

June – October – Competition artwork will be on display at RMRVAMC

Fall (Dates TBD) - Local NVCAF Awards Ceremony, Readings and Performances

October 1 – Local judging and winning entries are submitted to National

October 28 - Pick up Art entries at RMRVAMC

Winter (Date TBD) – National NVCAF Winners Celebration and Awards Ceremony

April 18-24, 2022 - National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in St. Petersburg, FL

Definitions and Abbreviations

DIVISIONS are Art, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, and Music

CATEGORIES are the types of pieces inside each division. Examples of categories inside the Art division are oil painting, color photography, carving, and leather kit. Creative Writing are poetry, essay, short story, etc.

VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System (ECHCS). Veterans entering competition must receive care within any VA/CBOC within this VA system. This includes Colorado Springs, Pueblo, etc. If you receive your primary care in another system, you must enter at that VA facility s.

RMRVAMC (Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center) located in Aurora, CO. This is the main VA facility within the ECHCS system. Local coordinators, meetings and art display are located at this facility.

ECHCS Local Competition – The first phase of the NVCAF competition. Each VA facility holds competitions at the local level, winners at the local level advance to the national phase. Local requirements may vary based on location and resources of each VA facility.

NVCAF (National Veterans Creative Arts Festival) – The Festival is located in a different city each year where the national winners of the competition participate in a weeklong festival of workshops, stage shows, and more.

Local Coordinators – VA Staff organizing the local competition and liaison between National Coordinators and Veteran participants. Local coordinators will assist in process from the local to national phase of the festival. Local Coordinators at ECHCS are Sarah El Hage and Allision Robbins

How to Participate

Any Veteran receiving their care at any VA Facility may participate in the NVCAF. Veterans receiving care at ECHCS, to include RMRVAMC and Clinics around Eastern Colorado, may participate in the ECHCS Local Competition. If a Veteran is receiving care at another VA Health Care System, please contact the NVCAF Local Coordinators at that facility, typically Recreation, Creative Arts and/or Music Therapy Departments. If you need assistance finding the appropriate Local Coordinator, please contact us for more information.

CAREFULLY READ THROUGH ALL INFORMATION IN EACH OF THE DIVISION HANDBOOK(S) YOU ARE ENTERING (ART, CREATIVE WRITING, MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA). If you don't have the handbook you are interested in, see below for options.

OBTAINING INFORMATIONAL HANDBOOKS AND APPLICATIONS:

1. **Go online** to download and print at www.denver.va.gov/services/recreational_therapy.asp or scan this QR code from your smart phone
2. **Contact Recreation Therapy using MyHealthVet** - You may request handbooks, ask questions and submit applications using this secure site.
3. **Email vhaechrmrartcommittee@va.gov** - Do not provide any patient information as this is not secure, please only provide your division of interest and we will send you a copy of the application(s). For Patient Privacy, **DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATIONS USING THIS EMAIL, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WE CANNOT REPLY.** You may ask questions, obtain applications and submit photos using this email address.



Call Local Coordinators to have one mailed to you or to pick up at RMRVAMC. Allow extra time for this option. Contact Numbers are on page 2.

Applications and information how to submit your application and entry can be found in the respective division handbook. In efforts to save paper, division handbooks and applications are mailed to you only if you have indicated what division you are interested in entering. **If you did not receive the handbook you would like to enter, please contact us to update your division of interest and obtain copies using the options above.**

How to Submit Art Applications and Entries

Review “DIGITAL IMAGE/DVD REQUIREMENTS” Section(s) in your respective Division Handbook on how to submit CD/DVD’s, photos of artwork, Creative Writing entries along with your digital or hard copy of your application. Each Division has specific requirements on how to submit your entries. Review each handbook carefully.

FOR PATIENT PRIVACY , EMAILS OF APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Submitting photos via email and/or text will only be accepted if arranged and approved by Local Coordinators. Unsecured emails with patient information will be immediately deleted and VA staff will not reply. If available to assist Veteran, any VA Staff may send ENCRYPTED applications via VA email

If Veteran is located outside of the Denver Metro area contact Local Coordinators to assist and provide you with information about delivery options. Arrangements must be made by the application due date by June 11

Application and entries must be at RMRVAMC by due dates, not postmarked by due date. If there is a concern it will not arrive on time, contact Local Coordinators for more information and potential options.

REQUIRED APPLICATION CHECK LIST

✓	<u>Division</u>	<u>Required Paperwork</u>	<u>File type and submission requirements</u>
	Art	Photo(s) of artwork	Hard copy or JPEG image(s) only. No PDFs or other file types
	Art – One form per participant	RMRVAMC Agreement and Application for art display only	Hard Copy, Word Document or PDF’s only.
	All – One form for each entry	Application Entry Form(s)	Hard Copy, Word Document or PDF’s only.
	All – One set of forms per participant	Signed VA National and Local Consent Forms (2 Forms)	Hard copies or PDF’s
	All – Only if noted in the category number	A written statement/narrative	Word document only. No hard copies, PDF’s or other file types
	Creative Writing	Creative Writing Entry	Word Document Only. No Hard Copy, PDFs or other file types
	Music, Dance, Drama	DVD Video of Performing Arts Entry	Rewritable DVD’s only with editable options. Videos sent on a CD or Cell Phone will not open on VA computers.

**WHEN READY TO SUBMIT APPLICATION PAPERWORK AND PHOTOS,
THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS ARE AVIALABLE :**

1. **Drop Off** hard copies and digital files saved on a CD/DVD in locked grey box located in Voluntary Service (Bldg G, First Floor) Monday – Friday 7:00am – 4:00pm.
2. **Make Appointment** with Local Coordinators for hand delivery (Contact info on page 2)
3. **MyHEALTHeVet VA Secure Messaging:** Instructions provided separately
4. **Mail** hard copies of application with photo and/or digital files saved on a CD/DVD to:

**Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center
1700 N. Wheeling St.
Attn: Recreation Therapy #117 - NVCAF
Aurora, CO 80045**

Additional options to submit photos. THESE OPTIONS ARE FOR PHOTOS ONLY Paperwork will not be accepted via text or email. Do not include any personal identifiers as these are not secure options. Follow instructions above how to submit paperwork

1. **Email to vhaechrmrartcommittee@va.gov** : Include only artist name and title of entry with your photo(s)
2. **Text photo to Sarah El Hage at 303-518-1382:** Include only artist name and title of entry with your photo(s)

Drop-off and hand delivery options may not be available at times due to Covid-19 and/or VA hospital restrictions. For safety reasons please consider mailing or using MyHealtheVet. If you are unsure what is available, contact coordinators for updates

Submitting Digital Files and Photos of Artwork

Digital Image/CD Requirements

- **NO USB or any other external drives will be accepted, they will not open on VA computers**
- **One CD** is acceptable to submit all required paperwork and images.
- **Professional photos** are not required but highly encouraged for National Judging. The more detail shown in the photo, the more the judges can accurately judge your entry.
- There are no restrictions on file size or types (such as .jpg)
- **Labeling CDs/DVDs:** Be sure to label the CDs with Veteran name(s) and title of entry(ies)
- **CDs and DVDs cannot be returned.** Please make duplicate copies of the media files and all paperwork for your records.
- **Hard Copies** of photos are also accepted if sending digital photos are challenging, however additional photos will be taken by VA staff for National judging

Number of Images for Each Entry

- **Two-dimensional pieces may submit two images** – one image as the total presentation, including frame, and one image showing more detail.
- **Three-dimensional pieces may submit three images** – one image from the front, one image from the back or side and one in more detail.

Tips for Taking Better Digital Art Images

National judging is solely based on photos, please take the following information into consideration

- **The art piece should fill the photo** – get as close as possible so the piece fills the viewfinder of the camera. **Do not include the title card, show exhibit card, art award ribbon, etc. in the photo**
- **Include the framing and matting of pictures** – these are part of the total presentation. Pedestals or bases that are part of the artwork should also be included in the digital image.
- **Frame the piece using a neutral background** – colorful backgrounds can alter the color of your piece by reflection onto it.
- **Watch for shadows on the background** – move the item being photographed away from the background to eliminate shadows.
- **Be alert for glare** – try changing the direction and location of the lighting or soften the light by bouncing it off a wall or screen.

The IdeaLab at the Denver Public Library is a great resource for assistance with photos, formatting CDs and learning other computer skills. Virtual classes available. Covid-19 restrictions may be in place, check website for current offerings at denverlibrary.org

Rules for All Divisions

1. **All eligible Veterans will be given the opportunity and encouraged to participate regardless of degree of talent and experience**
2. **Eligibility: Veteran must be enrolled to receive care at a VA medical facility before entering your local competition.** This facility should be the site where he/she receives their primary care. He/she can submit an entry in creative writing, dance, drama or music categories with a Veteran or group from another VA facility, but still represents and must go through his/her originating VA facility to enter the competition. Eligible Veterans are only permitted to enter through one VA facility competition each year.
3. Each Veteran must work with a VA staff person from the VA facility at which he/she receives his/her primary treatment to submit entries into the competition, or risk disqualification.
4. A 10-3203 form (Consent for Production and Use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA) and additional local release forms must be completed and signed by every Veteran entering the local and national level of competition.

5. Entries created/recorded/written by Veterans who have passed away prior to the national deadline in October 1, 2021 are not eligible to be submitted to the national level of competition.
6. Veteran will be allowed to enter **up to three entries in each division and one entry per category**. In addition, Veterans can also enter into group category outside of their individual submissions. Example: In the art division, Veterans can enter one acrylic, one watercolor and one drawing, however cannot enter two acrylic entries.
7. It is acceptable for an entry to be submitted into multiple divisions if the rules are followed for each division. Example: A poem entry can be submitted into the Creative Writing division and the Drama division.
8. Veterans may not expand the number of their entries in any one division using a different name (for example: pen names, stage names, different artist names, etc.).
9. Veterans who have received a gold medal in the same category from any of the 5 divisions (art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music) for two consecutive years must enter a different category the third year. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the entry being disqualified.
10. Veterans may not enter the same art, creative writing, dance, drama and music entry again once it has won first-place nationally. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification of the entry. Additionally, Veterans should be encouraged to enter new material each year rather than repeat entries.
11. Veterans in national first, second and third place groups of up to five in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music will each be presented a medal. Groups of 6 or more will be presented a medal if possible or will be provided an award certificate. Non-Veterans and Veterans serving as accompanists, or dance partners, or dramatic readers that enhance an entry will not receive medals or certificates.
12. Prior to submitting entries in the competition, eligible Veterans who are also VA employees should discuss leave options/restrictions with their supervisor in the event they might be invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
13. References to diagnosis and explanations of emotional or personal content related to the Veteran will not be read or communicated to the national judges. The exception to this rule is an entry submitted into a category that requires a write-up.
14. Final results of each of the five divisions of national competition will be sent via E-mail to staff contact by late -December.
15. Funding and arrangements for travel to and from the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival for returning Veterans invited to attend the NVCAF is the responsibility of the Veteran. Funding for transportation could possibly be supported through donations. Lodging, meals and ground transportation during the Festival week will be provided through national Festival funds. These expenses will be provided for up to 8 eligible Veterans invited in the Group Categories.
16. Stage show performance costumes for winning acts invited to the Festival will be the responsibility of the participant(s). Male participants will be requested to bring black pants and a white collared, long-sleeve dress shirt. Other production number costumes such as vests, ties, etc., will be provided. Women participants will be provided a Festival chorus dress.

17. Veterans who are invited to the Festival must be prepared to send an E-mail including the lyrics for music and dance and words/narration for drama entries in order for this to be placed in the show script.
18. 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.
19. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.

Art Division Rules

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. All art entries must be created solely by the Veteran and/or Veterans submitting the art entry.
5. 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).
6. All paintings, drawings, watercolors, pastels, photographs, graphics, collages and digital art must be ready to hang for display with wire hanger. No sawtooth hangers will be accepted as the VA hanging system does not connect with this type of hanger. If artwork is not able to be displayed at the VA, your entry may still be judged and entered in the competition.
7. Nationally, GUNS, BLADES, KNIVES or other WEAPONS will not be accepted due to VA regulations banning these items from VA facilities.
8. Local ECHCS rules state political, religious, sexual content will not be displayed on VA property. All banned items includes the physical item, drawings and pictures of these items. If your entry falls into these categories, artwork will be judged and entered in the competition but will not be displayed at RMRVAMC. Once judging process is completed you will be contacted to pick up artwork.
9. 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).
10. If it is required that the piece is placed under a clear protective layer, **Plexiglas** be used. Pieces placed under glass will be disqualified due to safety and the risk of potential damage should the piece be shipped as a first-place national competition winning piece to the Festival host site.

11. No puzzles, including puzzle kits will be accepted.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Dioramas and dipped art will not be accepted. Diorama definition: a model representing a SCENE with three-dimensional figures.
15. Entries that are first-place national competition winning pieces MUST be fully assembled when shipped.
16. Following the national judging, the first-place pieces from each art division category should be shipped to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival host VA facility location around November 2021 and will not be returned until after the Festival in April 2022. Entries that are extremely fragile may not be shipped and will instead be displayed in the Festival art exhibit as a poster image. First place winners will be contacted by local VA staff to coordinate shipping.
17. During the competition, art sales will NOT be occurring

The national chairpersons and judges of the competitions reserve the right to disqualify an entry if the above rules are not followed

Artwork Restrictions

Due to restrictions displaying art at RMRVAMC and government property, additional restrictions apply however you can still enter in the competition If your art falls within the local and national guidelines stated below, your artwork can still be submitted at time of drop off for judging but will not be on display. Once judging has been completed you will be contacted for pick up. If you are unsure if your art falls within these guidelines, contact local chairpersons for further guidance and allow yourself time to make adjustments as needed prior to due date.

Displaying at RMRVAMC Eligibility and Restrictions

- Drugs, sexual content, profane language, political, weapons and/or violence will not be accepted
- All hanging art must have wire backing, no sawtooth hooks. NO GLASS, Plexiglas only.
- Art containing glass may be approved by local chairpersons if able to be displayed inside display cases. This will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

RMRVAMC Display Size and Weight Limits

- Visual Art (Categories 1-14) cannot exceed: 4' tall x 3' wide x 4" deep and no more than 50lbs.
- Applied Art (Categories 15-50) cannot exceed 24" tall x 30" wide x 11" deep and no more than 20lbs.

National NVCAF Size and weight limits for the competition are the following:

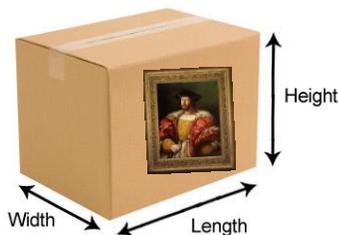
Each national art entry must be able to fit into **one box**. The box can be up to 150 lbs., up to 165 inches in length and girth combined. Length cannot exceed 108 inches. To measure packages, use the following formula:

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 requirements indicated above will be disqualified. If you are unclear if your entry will qualify please contact the local coordinators with plenty of time to make adjustments or submit another piece if needed

Art Division Judging Process

For the 2021 competition year, there will only be one phase of national competition visual art judging. Judges will select first, second and third place based on the scores they provide during the digital image judging in April. Only the first-place pieces from each category will be shipped in from the VA medical centers to the 2021 NVCAF Host Site VA facility location.

It is crucial to provide as much detail and information about the mediums/techniques used. Veterans will be allowed to submit two digital images for each two-dimensional art entry and three images for each three-dimensional art entry.

All gold medal winners from the National Art Division Competition will be invited to participate in the Festival. Veterans will be presented ribbons and medals for the first three places of the National Art Competition. Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail.

Judges at the 2020 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

Category Number:	Category Name:
Title of Piece:	
Materials/mediums used. Software program/programs used for Digital Art entries.	

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

TOTAL SCORE: _____

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

Fine Art Categories & Military Combat Experience

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. **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 (18), metal sculptures should be entered into the Metalwork category (29), and glass sculptures should be entered in the Glasswork category (30).
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 (46).
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 (13).
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 category 15 or 16. Sculptural clay pieces should be entered into the Sculpture category (7).
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 (11) or the Color Photography category (12).

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, OEF/OIF 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.

Applied Art Categories & Group Art Category

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. **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.
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 31).
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 (44) or Needlework Kit category (45).
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 (39), Fabric Art Kit category (44), or Needlework Kit category (45).
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 (35).
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 (35).
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 (46).
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 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 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.*

Kit & Special Recognition Categories

- Definition of a Kit entry: All materials needed to complete the project are supplied in the kit.
 - No puzzles, including puzzle kits will be accepted.
 - Dioramas and dipped art will not be accepted. Diorama definition: A model representing a SCENE with three-dimensional figures. For further clarification please contact the national art chairpersons.
 - Only ONE KIT PER ENTRY.
 - Entries containing more than one kit will be disqualified (with the exception of Category #48 Combined Kits).
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.

Visual Art 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 PD (physical disability)** - Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the visual arts while possessing significant ***physical limitations***.
50. **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 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 form 10-3203 and 10-5345 must be signed and dated by the Veteran.