

# ArtFest February 7 - 8, 2026

FORT MYERS

## ART UNDER 20

Presented by



Participation in Art Under 20 is a stepping stone to a bright future in the arts!

### Southwest Florida's leading High School exhibit and competition.

- Art Under 20 is hosted at ArtFest Fort Myers
- Students will gain experience at a high-exposure venue
- Students show their art in a professional setting
- Training available for proper artwork photography
- Art Under 20 raises art's educational importance in the community
- This competition builds art college portfolios and encourages art education

#### Awards Totaling \$10,000

- \$900 Best of Show
- \$300 First Place in 6 Categories
- \$200 Second Place in 6 Categories
- \$100 Third Place in 6 Categories
- Fewster Family Awards - Five \$500 awards
- Fewster Family Recycled Materials Awards - \$500 First Place, \$300 Second Place, \$200 Third Place
- \$500 Ikki Matsumoto Award
- \$300 Equity Award - artwork that portrays diversity, equity & Inclusion - two awards
- \$300 People's Choice Award
- \$50 Honorable Mention - Twelve awards

#### Eligibility:

- All Lee County Public, Private & Homeschooled High School students are invited to enter the Art Under 20 High School Exhibit and Competition.

#### Application Process:

- The Art Under 20 application is online at [ArtFestFortMyers.com/au20](https://ArtFestFortMyers.com/au20)
- \$10 Entry Fee per student and one art piece per student
- Categories Include: Digital • Drawing • Painting • Photography • 3D • Mixed Media • Recycled Materials
- Students will submit their entry form and pay the entry fee online
- If a student is unable to complete an entry form online, please contact Grisel Brewster [Grisel.Martin@artfestfortmyers.com](mailto:Grisel.Martin@artfestfortmyers.com)
- **Deadline to Enter by December 5, 2025**

*Confirmation notice will be sent via email to each student by December 12, 2025*

**More information at [ArtFestFortMyers.com/au20/](https://ArtFestFortMyers.com/au20/) or call us at (239) 768-3602**

# Important Dates

## Before

- **Friday, December 5, 2025:** Entry deadline
- **Friday, December 5, 2025:** Confirmation notice sent via email to students

## During

- **Thursday, February 5:** ArtFest Fort Myers provides a 30' x 75' professional gallery tent equipped with artist quality propanels and pedestals for the Art Under 20 High School Exhibit & Competition.
- **Thursday, February 5-Friday, February 6:** Student's artwork must be delivered between 1:00pm-4:00pm to Art Under 20 area. A professional exhibit team will be on-site to display all student work on sturdy panels or tables. Students and teachers cannot install their own artwork.
- **Friday, February 6** All art will be judged by two professional festival artists
- **Saturday, February 7:** Ribbons will be installed on winning artwork
- **Sunday, February 8:** Teachers or students with a picture I.D. may collect their art between 3:00pm and 5:00pm. We request that a designated school person be present at 5:00pm to collect all leftover work. ArtFest Fort Myers shall not be responsible for artwork not collected by 5:00pm.

## After

- **Tuesday, March 10:** The Art Under 20 Award Reception



More information at [ArtFestFortMyers.com/au20/](https://ArtFestFortMyers.com/au20/) or call us at (239) 768-3602

## Categories:

Digital · Drawing · Painting · Photography · 3-Dimensional · Mixed Media · Recycle Materials

## Judging Criteria:

Originality · Creativity · Craftsmanship · Technique · Execution

## Award Reception:

- Gallery space will be provided for students to display their award-winning artwork
- Award winners are welcome to bring family, friends and teachers
- Beverages and snacks will be provided
- Suncoast Credit Union will present award checks

## Liability & Security:

ArtFest Fort Myers will provide overnight security (city police and private security force) on the festival site Thursday, February 5 through Sunday, February 8. However, ArtFest Fort Myers, Inc., the volunteers, the City of Fort Myers, Suncoast Credit Union, any other sponsoring organizations, any other duty appointed representatives and the employees, agents, officers of each are not responsible for loss or damages of any kind arising out of or in connection with the festival. In consideration of ArtFest Fort Myers' display of the student's work, the students, parent or guardians, and the School District release and forever discharge the above-named groups and individuals from any personal liability or responsibility.

# Helpful Tips

## Before Submitting Your Artwork:

**Pick your best piece** – Choose work that represents your style, skill, and effort. Don't just pick something because it's "done."

**Finish strong** – Make sure your piece looks complete and intentional. Take time to add those final touches.

**Mount or frame properly** – Presentation matters! A clean frame or matting makes your work look professional and ready for the spotlight.

**Label everything** – Artist Name and School on the back of your piece.

**Think about the message** – What story or emotion are you trying to convey? Art with meaning stands out.

## Technical Tips:

**Check your materials** – Make sure paints are dry, fragile items are secured, and everything is clean and smudge-free.

**Use sturdy backing** – Flimsy or curling paper can ruin the presentation. Use foam board or mount paper works for a clean look.

**Test your hanging method** – Use D-rings, wires, or other secure hardware. Tape, string, or command hooks won't cut it.



Let's make your art shine—safely and professionally!

## Art Under 20 Rules of Entry:

- Entry form and \$10 entry fee must be submitted online at [ArtFestFortMyers.com/au20](https://ArtFestFortMyers.com/au20) by December 5, 2025.
- Release and acknowledgment forms (one per student) must be received by ArtFest Fort Myers no later than December 5, 2025, and signed by the student & the student's parent or guardian.
- A confirmation email will be sent to the email address listed on the entry form, acknowledging receipt of your entry form. If you do not receive an email confirmation by December 12, 2025, you are not entered into the Art Under 20 High School Exhibit and Competition and will not be able to display your art in the Art Under 20 tent. Entry forms are not transferable between students.
- **ONE** entry per student is allowed in the Art Under 20 High School Exhibit and competition.
- **No parent-assisted or teacher-assisted artwork is allowed.** All artwork submitted must be original and produced exclusively by the student submitting the artwork.
- **Artwork that is not ready to hang will not be accepted and no refunds will be issued.** All 2D art must be **FRAMED** and waterproofed with no unattached pieces. All artwork must be secure with no loose, unattached, or hanging components. This means there must be a **HANGING WIRE** on the back, which will support the weight of the work. A hook will be provided by ArtFest Fort Myers to secure the work to the display wall. Work without a hanging wire will not be accepted and no refund will be issued.
- **Label all work with student's name and school name (on the back or inside).** If there is no name on the artwork when it enters the Art Under 20 tent, it will not be accepted.
- Artwork must be delivered on your school's scheduled day, either Thursday, February 5 or Friday, February 6 between 1:00pm-4:00pm to the Art Under 20 area. ArtFest Fort Myers is located on Edwards Drive, along the riverfront, in downtown Fort Myers. Art Under 20 is located at the intersection of Heitman Street and Edwards Drive. Access from entrance at Bay Street and Heitman Street.
- All art will be judged on Friday, February 6 and ribbons will be installed on Saturday, February 7. The decision of the judges is final.
- Pick up of the artwork will be Sunday, February 8, between 3:00pm and 5:00pm. Teachers or students with a picture I.D. may collect their art. We request that a designated school person be present at 5:00pm to collect all leftover work. **ArtFest Fort Myers shall not be responsible for artwork not collected by 5:00pm.**
- This is an outdoor event. We encourage students to waterproof their artwork as humidity can and will adversely affect unprotected work.
- The Art Under 20 Tent is closed to the public at 5:00pm Friday and Saturday.
- Violation of any of the rules may result in the revoking of any award granted by Art Under 20.

**ArtFest**  
FORT MYERS

**Please contact us for any support you or your students may need.**

We love to help!

Grisel.Martin@ArtFestFortMyers.com

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