

KENT COUNTY 4-H FINE ARTS CONTEST

Entries due to the Kent County 4-H Office on or before April 12, 2024, by 4:30 PM

Affix a completed entry form to back of each entry.

NAME: _____

AGE (as of Jan. 1, 2024): _____

CLUB: _____

Years in 4-H: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Circle One (age as of Jan 1st): Cloverbud (5-7) – *may enter classes 17, 18, 19, and 20 only*

Beginner (8-10)

Intermediate (11-13)

Senior (14-19)

AWARDS: All Fine Art Entries will be on display at the Kent County Public Library April 22 through April 27, 2024. Entries & awards available for pickup at the 4-H office after April 30.

CATEGORIES: *one entry per member per category, max framed size 18"x24" except where noted*

____ CLASS #1 Graphite Pencil – completed using a standard graphite pencil (#2 pencil) with the addition of a standard grading of Graphite pencils (F, H, HB, B, B2-B8)

____ CLASS #2 Oil Painting

____ CLASS #3 Watercolor

____ CLASS #4 Acrylic Painting

____ CLASS #5 Pastel, oil or chalk

____ CLASS #6 Charcoal

____ CLASS #7 Colored Pencil

____ CLASS #8 Marker

____ CLASS #9 Black Ink Pen

____ CLASS #10 Abstract

____ CLASS #11 Anime (any media, no screen tones)

____ CLASS #12 Monochrome (any media done in black and white with a grayscale)

____ CLASS #13 Mixed Media - at least two media of art, must list media used on entry form: _____

____ CLASS #14 Calligraphy or Artistic Lettering (simple saying or quote using calligraphy)

____ CLASS #15 Clay/Sculpture/Pottery (nothing larger than 12 in x 12 in)

____ CLASS #16 Cartoon (any media, no screen tones)

____ CLASS #17 **Cloverbud Only:** Any drawing using graphite pencil, crayon, colored pencil, marker, chalk, charcoal, or black ink pen (includes abstract or mixed media)

____ CLASS #18 **Cloverbud Only:** Any painting using oil, watercolor, or acrylic (includes abstract or mixed media)

____ CLASS #19 **Cloverbud Only:** Calligraphy or Artistic lettering or Clay/Sculpture/Pottery (no bigger than 12"x12")

____ CLASS #20 **Cloverbud Only:** Anime or Cartoon (any media, no screen tones)

ENTRY RULES:

1. All art must be done using traditional methods, must be entrants own work (no copying of famous works), and exclusive creation of the artist. **These items are prohibited:** NO computer-generated artwork, including AI, NO tracing, NO pre drawn line art (i.e. coloring pages, printed canvas, etc.), and NO photocopies.
2. Copyrighted characters/material are allowed, but must be made for the artist's own enjoyment, not for sale or mass production and must be an original piece by the artist, not a copy of an existing work. Please leave artwork unsigned.
3. One entry per contestant per class.
4. No kits, except Class 15 and 19 Clay/Sculpture/Pottery
5. All classes, except classes 15 & 19 (if entering a clay/sculpture/pottery item), ideally should be framed or mounted properly for hanging. Please refer to additional guidelines on mounting and/or framing artwork. No paintings/drawings larger than 18 in x 24 in (including mounting), though anything larger than 11 in x 17 in (including mounting) can't be entered in the state fair.
6. Classes or age categories may be split at the discretion of organizers if entries warrant.
7. All entries must be received by April 12, 2024, at 4:30 pm at the Kent County Extension Office
8. While we recognize that art is an expression of yourself, we ask that you not enter anything in bad taste or with inappropriate subject matter as you are representing not just yourself, but your club and your county. The judges reserve the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the guidelines laid out here.
9. Decision of Judges is final!

Drawing/Painting Guidelines

ARTWORK GUIDELINES:

- **What is a medium?** I'm going to use that word a lot. In this context it is going to mean the artistic material being used to create your drawing, painting, or sculpture. It has a lot of different meanings in the art world, but for our purposes it will refer to these: graphite pencil, black ink pen, pastels, charcoal, colored pencils, crayons, markers, oil paints, acrylic paints, watercolor paints, and clay. Each one by itself is one type of medium. The word media means more than one medium.
- **Drawings** (Graphite, Ink Pen, Pastels, Charcoal, Crayon, Colored Pencils, Marker, and Calligraphy) are best submitted on paper for display purposes. The type of paper you use can vary depending on what you are doing. You can go inexpensively with plain white paper or construction paper, or buy paper specially made for those media at the craft store. We recommend specialized paper for things like pastels and marker so they adhere correctly and don't soak through.
- **Paintings** are expected to be done on appropriate paper for that paint style or, in the case of oil and acrylic, may be done on canvas. While you can use things like construction paper and plain white paper for painting, they will come out better on paper designed for them, especially watercolors which can soak through and wrinkle regular paper or oils which may not adhere or dry correctly on some surfaces.
- **When should you use use canvas?** Typically, canvases are specially finished to be used with either acrylic or oil paints, so please pay attention to that when purchasing them. Having said that, I have seen some for watercolor and some unfinished to be used however you want, so just be aware of its labeled use when buying it. *It is not necessary* to use canvas for your artwork, especially acrylic which is used on many different types of surfaces for various forms of arts and crafts. Canvas can be much pricier than paper and harder to frame, so there really isn't any reason to use canvas just for this competition unless you really like how your artwork comes out on it.
- **Using 2 or more media together:** Several of the classes we have listed may be open to different types of media, like Mixed Media (which means using 2 or more media together), Monochrome, Abstract, Cartoon/Anime, and the 4-H theme. You should use the type of paper/surface that fits the media you are using or the medium that is most prominent.

In the case of **Mixed Media**, there is special paper designed for this art style. It's not always necessary to use the specialty paper, but if you are, for example, doing watercolor and marker together, the mixed media paper would be able to withstand them better than regular paper, since those both tend to soak through and disintegrate normal everyday paper.

- **Where can I find tutorials?** If you are not sure what a particular art style is, look it up online. There are numerous free tutorials available in all these different media. Places like Youtube, Michaels, JoannFabrics, Pinterest, and JerrysArtarama.com provide free art tutorials and classes.
- **Sculpture/Pottery:** For the clay and pottery class, you can use either air dry or oven/kiln dry clay for your creations. You may also paint them or leave them plain, depending on what you are trying to depict or create. Just don't go over the size guidelines because we want to have room for everyone's creations.
- **What about unusual surfaces?** In this case, you won't really get bonus points for unusual surfaces (in some cases you could lose points). If in doubt, paper is one of the best and more affordable choices for most artwork. It's obviously not the only option out there, but if you're looking for reliable and affordable, it fits the bill most of the time. Art, unlike a lot of other project areas, is a little less set in stone on how you do it, because it is art, but generally for an art show like this think about what can be hung and displayed easily. We love creativity, but keep in mind it could be hard to display something large and bulky. I wish I could let people do whatever size or surface they want, but that could get a little crazy. This is a competition, so try to put your best foot forward. And please feel free to ask questions if you aren't sure about something.

ARTWORK FINISHING GUIDELINES:

For competition you should leave your artwork unsigned.

If entering a painting on a canvas (canvas is not required, but is an option):

- A thin canvas, often referred to as a canvas panel, ideally should be put in a frame for the best presentation. These canvases are usually stretched over a panel board and are maybe 1/8" - 1/4" or so thick. They are usually used for acrylic or oil painting. They will generally fit in a standard frame.
- A thick canvas, when finished appropriately, does not require a frame, though it is possible to frame them (albeit rather expensive and complicated due to how thick they are). Let me repeat myself here: You do not have to frame them, but you do want the edges of your canvas to be painted in a manner that goes with your painting in order to be hung as is. Realize, that if you do choose to try and frame a thick canvas, you will most likely need to custom make your frame to fit.

Here is an example of a thick canvas with the sides painted to match the picture:



If entering a painting or drawing done on paper (i.e. sketch paper, mixed media paper, watercolor paper, etc.):

Ideally they should be framed using a traditional plastic or wood frame, with or without the extra matting inside the frame, or a mat board frame. Proper framing will count toward your final score.

Traditional picture frames:

- This may be slightly more expensive, especially if you are framing multiple pieces of art or larger artwork. Inexpensive frames can sometimes be found at Walmart, Dollar Tree, or a craft store or ordered online in bulk from places like Amazon.
- Another option might be to construct your own frame at home using things like crown molding or more rustic wood giving your painting or drawing a more personal touch.

- The decision to use the extra matting that may come with a store-bought frame will depend on how you want to set off your picture. However, a basic frame, without the matting, that exactly fits your painting or drawing is fine, as long as the finished product meets the size guidelines. *While the glass and plastic inserts may seem like they would protect your artwork, they could actually distort or damage it, so probably best not to use them in most cases.*

Mat Board Frames:

- This can be a less expensive option for framing a large number of items. Mat board can usually be found at craft stores that carry art supplies, like Michaels or Hobby Lobby, or ordered online.
- Depending on the size of your painting or drawing, you may be able to use precut mat board frames that are available in bulk from places like Amazon ([50 pack White Mat Board Bulk](#)). This might also be a good option for clubs with numerous entries as everyone could split the cost of ordering a set.
- When ordering precut mat boards be careful to check the recommended picture size and the overall size to make sure it will meet the size guidelines for the contest and that your artwork will fit in it properly.
- When making a mat board frame, your border should usually be at least 1” in width, though you can certainly make it wider if it complements the artwork you are framing.