

52ND ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION & 9TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHER EXHIBIT

Hosted by the Quincy Art Center

January 31 - February 28, 2026

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 31, 2-4 p.m.

Area Colleges & Universities Art & Design Program pre-show meet & greet 1 - 2 p.m.

Awards at 2:30 p.m. and an artist talk from our judge at 3:30 p.m.

Clay Demonstration from Pattie Chalmers at 4 p.m. in The Art Center's new renovated studio



Open to high school artists, grades 9th - 12th,
living in counties within 50 miles that surround
Quincy, IL.

Illinois Counties:

Adams
Brown
Cass
Greene
Hancock
McDonough
Morgan
Pike
Schuyler
and Scott

Iowa County:

Lee

Missouri Counties:

Audrain
Clark
Knox
Lewis
Marion
Monroe
Pike
Ralls
and Shelby

Entrance Fee and Requirements:

Artists may enter up to 3 works. There is a \$15 non refundable entry fee. Artworks must be original and not exceed 4 feet in any direction. All mediums accepted. Artworks must be ready for exhibition.

Entry Drop-off:

Tue - Fri; December 16 - 19, 2025; 11 am - 5pm
Tue - Sat; January 6 - 10, 2026, 11 am - 5pm
Tue - Fri; January 13 - 16, 2026, 11 am - 5pm

Non-Accepted Pick-Up:

Wed - Sat; January 21 - 24, 2026; 11 am - 5pm

Accepted Pick-Up:

Tue - Sat; Mar 3 - 7, 2026; 11 am - 5pm
Artworks that arrive after the judging process will not be eligible for this year's competition.
For more information, visit quincyartcenter.org/exhibits.

This exhibit is a juried competition. All artworks submitted will undergo a selection process conducted by a sole juror. This juror is a professional from outside the eligible region with expertise in the visual arts. The juror selects 100 pieces to go on for final display in the exhibit. *Not all artworks entered will go on to be exhibited.*

Meet our Juror:

Pattie Chalmers received her BFA in printmaking from the University of Manitoba in Canada, and her MFA in ceramics from the University of Minnesota. She has exhibited in group exhibitions on five continents, in six countries and thirty-six states and over the past ten years has had eight solo exhibitions, most recently Hinterland at Silverwood Park in Minneapolis.

Chalmers is a Professor at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where she is also the Head of Graduate Studies and runs the ceramics program.



Awards:

Best of Show - \$500
Second Place - \$300
Third Place - \$150
2 Merit Awards - \$100 each
2 Great River Watercolor Society Awards - \$50 each
3 Honorable Mentions - \$50 each
3 Special Recognitions - \$25 each

This project is supported in part by Arts Midwest, which receives support
in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



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1515 Jersey St., Quincy, IL | 217.223.5900 | quincyartcenter.org



Student Artist Entry Requirements:

Student artists may enter up to 3 works. There is a \$15 non refundable entry fee. Artworks must be original and not exceed 6 feet in any direction. All mediums accepted.

Art Teacher Entry Requirements:

Teachers may enter one piece for our High School Art Teacher Exhibit. Teacher entry is free, but the teachers must have a student who entered the High School Art Competition. All other rules apply.

Presentation and Content:

Artworks must be ready for exhibition. Wall-hung pieces require secure wire hanging devices; avoid sawtooth or plate hangers. No damaged mats. Pedestals are available for 3D works. Digital presentations need their own viewing devices. The Art Center reserves the right to install works in any manner deemed necessary for exhibition or security reasons. Due to the wide variety of visitors, all entries must be appropriate for viewing by all ages. The Art Center reserves the right to refuse any work that may be considered potentially offensive.

Delivery and Pick-Up:

All entries must be delivered and picked up by the artist during the times listed. Artworks that arrive after the judging process will not be eligible for this year's competition.

Entry Drop-off:

Tue - Fri; December 16 - 19, 2025; 11 am - 5pm, Note: The Art Center is closed 12/20/2025

Tue - Sat; January 6 - 10, 2026, 11 am - 5pm,

Tue - Fri; January 13 - 16, 2026, 11 am - 5pm.

An artwork accepted list will be emailed to all artists who entered no later than January 20th at 5 p.m.

Pick-up dates are as followed:

Non-Accepted Pick-Up:

Wed - Sat; January 21 - 24, 2026; 11 am - 5pm

Accepted Pick-Up:

Tue - Sat; Mar 3 - 7, 2026; 11 am - 5pm

Artworks left two months past the pick-up date, March 7, 2026, may be disposed of at The Art Center's discretion.

Sales:

Sales to the public are encouraged. The Art Center will retain a 30% commission per artwork. The sales price must reflect this commission.

Opening Reception:

All students and teachers are encouraged to attend the opening reception at The Art Center on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

The following is a list of planned programming available for all to utilize and enjoy. Area Colleges & Universities Art & Design Program meet & greet 1 - 2 p.m. Awards at 2:30 p.m. and an artist talk from our judge at 3:30 p.m. Clay Demonstration from Pattie Chalmers at 4 p.m. in The Art Center's new renovated studio

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Entry forms received without signature will not be accepted. By signing this form, I confirm that I am either the student's parent/legal guardian, art teacher, or the participating high school student aged 18 or older. I have reviewed the prospectus and ensure that this entry complies with all the guidelines. I acknowledge that the Quincy Art Center has the authority to reject any entry that does not meet these guidelines. Entry forms lacking a signature will not be considered. My signature indicates my acceptance of all the conditions outlined in the prospectus.

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This form is for High School Student Entries

Artist Name:		Phone:
E-mail:		
Street Address:		City:
State:	County:	Zip:
School:		Grade (circle one): 9 10 11 12
Art Teacher's Name:		Art Teacher's Email:

1. Artwork Title:		Year Completed:
Is this artwork for sale? YES \$_____ or NO		Medium:
2. Artwork Title:		Year Completed:
Is this artwork for sale? YES \$_____ or NO		Medium:
3. Artwork Title:		Year Completed:
Is this artwork for sale? YES \$_____ or NO		Medium:

Double check that information is clear and easy to read, that all fields are filled out, accurate, and spelling is correct. This information will be used to create labels and the exhibit brochure. Email will be the main form of communication.

Please attach a label below to the back of artwork entries. Double check that information matches what is above.

2026 High School Art Competition		
Artwork Title:	Medium:	Year Completed:
Artist Name:	Phone:	
School:		
2026 High School Art Competition		
Artwork Title:	Medium:	Year Completed:
Artist Name:	Phone:	
School:		
2026 High School Art Competition		
Artwork Title:	Medium:	Year Completed:
Artist Name:	Phone:	
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This form is for High School Art Teacher Entries

Art Teacher Entry Requirements:

Teachers may enter one piece for our High School Art Teacher Exhibit. Teacher entry is free, but the teachers must have a student who entered the High School Art Competition. All other rules apply (see page 2 for details)

Award:

The Judge for this year's High School Student Competition will select one Art Teacher will be awarded \$300 to use towards their art classroom.

The Art Center reserves the right to photograph and film all exhibited works and to use the footage for educational or publicity purposes. For further information please visit quincyartcenter.org/exhibits or contact Director of Exhibitions, Elizabeth Swick, at eswick@quincyartcenter.org

Name:	Phone:	
E-mail:		
Street Address:	City:	
State:	County:	Zip:
School:		

Artwork Title:	Year Completed:
Is this artwork for sale? YES \$_____ or NO Medium:	

Signature:_____ Date:_____

Entry forms received without signature will not be accepted. By signing this form, I confirm that I am either the student's parent/legal guardian, art teacher, or the participating high school student aged 18 or older. I have reviewed the prospectus and ensure that this entry complies with all the guidelines. I acknowledge that the Quincy Art Center has the authority to reject any entry that does not meet these guidelines. Entry forms lacking a signature will not be considered. My signature indicates my acceptance of all the conditions outlined in the prospectus. Exhibited works may not be withdrawn until February 28, 2026 at 5pm.

Double check that information is clear and easy to read, that all fields are filled out, accurate, and spelling is correct. This information will be used to create labels and the exhibit brochure. Email will be the main form of communication.

Please attach a label below to the back of artwork entries. Double check that information matches what is above.

2026 High School Art Teacher Exhibit		
Artwork Title:	Medium:	Year Completed:
Artist Name:	Phone:	
School:		