

2024 JAMAICA VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION & EXHIBITION HANDBOOK



The 2024 Jamaica Visual Arts programme is expanded in several ways:

Increased Number of Creative Categories or Disciplines

Previous iterations of the JCDC Visual Arts Competition focused on creative work in eight disciplines or creative categories. For 2024, submissions are now being accepted in thirteen creative categories. Some of these categories emerged from an expansion of previously merged disciplines due to a deeper appreciation of the nuances of the respective areas. The expanded list reflects a more advanced appreciation for the technical requirements that are unique to the respective visual outputs, despite the freedom of artists in exploring and mix these the varying technical approaches.

The creative categories for which work may be submitted this year are:

- a. Ceramics
- b. Collage
- c. Digital Illustration
- d. Drawing
- e. Fiber Art
- f. Fashion Design
- g. Jewelry
- h. Painting
- i. Photography
- j. Printmaking
- k. Sculpture
- l. Text-Based Designs
- m. Textile Art.

Youth Competition

Prior to 2021, there was a tradition of hosting Jamaica Visual Arts Youth Competitions in alternate years, which ended with a merger of the youth and adult competitions in 2021.

For the Youth Competition, entries are being accepted by Jamaican children between the ages of 6 years old, and 17 years old at the September 1, 2024. Entries in the youth category will be grouped based on the ages of the creators, resulting in four groups or classes, as outlined below:

- a. Class 1 – 6-8 Years Old
- b. Class 2 – 9-11 Years Old
- c. Class 3 – 12-14 Years Old
- d. Class 4 – 15-17 Years Old

Entries for the youth competition will be adjudicated independently of the adult submissions for prizes such as the best in the respective disciplines, which was not the case in 2023. This provides youth artists with increased opportunities to win prizes among their peers.

Adult Competition

The adult competition has been expanded to place emphasis on a critical group of creatives who are deserving of special focus. Over the past several competition cycles, we have received entries in painting, sculpture, drawing, and jewelry that have been produced by artists who operate outside of mainstream or formal visual traditions. Due to the visual approaches and conceptual concerns, as well as the biography of the creators, these artworks are not accurately categorised as being a part of the academic canons, which are essentially Euro-American in nature.

Instead, such artworks have an outsider essence in the approach to the pictorial representations and associated ideas of the respective creations, due largely to a very limited exposure to, and application of, the rules that influence the artistic outputs of those who studied art at the secondary and tertiary levels – with the various Euro-American influences and approaches, or who may have apprenticed or modelled their creative outputs from established or recognizable artists who operate within these academic traditions.

As an outcome, entries for the adult competition will be adjudicated based on whether the work is categorized as academic or intuitive/outsider. There will therefore be two adult categories within which artworks will be adjudicated and

prizes received. This provides adult artists with increased opportunities to win prizes among their peers.

Themes

As is the case in previous years, artists may submit any work that they believe would be a good fit for the competition. This means that the competition is open to realistic and abstract submissions, as well as to both experimental and non-experimental artworks made of all media and approaches.

Nonetheless, given the mandate of the JCDC to preserve Jamaica's cultural heritage, artworks that are more or less consistent with the themes listed below are encouraged:

- a. Digital Technology
- b. Dressin Up
- c. Family and Community
- d. Fun and Games
- e. Heroes, Sacrifice and Leadership
- f. Homes, Shelters, and Habitats
- g. Landforms and Landmarks
- h. Medicines
- i. Natural Disasters and Resilience
- j. Plants, Animals and Ecosystems
- k. Reggae Icons and Iconography
- l. Spirituality and Religion
- m. Sports, Games and Entertainment
- n. Supernatural Forces, Characters, and Personalities
- o. Sweet Things, Bickle & Flavours
- p. Teaching Time
- q. Transportation
- r. Vision 2062

Entry Guidelines/Process

- a. Adjudicators cannot participate in the competition.
- b. All entrants must have a working email and/or telephone number, as these will be the primary means through which notifications about the

competition are sent. Information on the outcomes of submissions for each phase of the competition will also be sent to the respective parish offices.

- c. The competition is open to all artists six (6) years and older who have been resident in Jamaica for at least three years.
- d. Entries will be accepted **ONLY** via our new online portal in the period July 1 to 21, 2024. We encourage our artists who are not technologically savvy to seek assistance (from our parish office staff, community members, etcetera). The portal may be accessed at <https://jcdc.awardsplatform.com>.
- e. For the registration process, artists will need excellent photographs of their completed artworks, an appropriate artwork title, as well as information on the materials used to create the artwork. Incomplete entries will be disqualified.
- f. An artist may submit up to thirteen artworks for the competition. The thirteen artworks may be in any single creative discipline or category, or may be spread across any of the thirteen creative disciplines/categories. The creative discipline or category in which an artwork is adjudicated may be re-classified by the adjudicators.
- g. All entries must be original works that are created and fully owned by the artists making the submissions. Artworks that are found to have been plagiarized will be disqualified.
- h. With the exception of jewelry, three dimensional entries must have a minimum height/depth/width of 12 inches, and a maximum height/width/depth of 60 inches. Artworks that are not within the recommended size range will be disqualified.
- i. Two dimensional works must have a minimum height/width of 12 inches, and a maximum height/width of 60 inches. Artworks that are not within the recommended size range will be disqualified.

- j. No artwork that was previously entered in the competition may be re-entered. Where this is found to have been the case the artwork will be disqualified at the point at which the breach is identified.
- k. The artworks submitted for the 2024 competition must be works completed after January 1, 2023. Artworks that were completed before January 1, 2023 will be disqualified.
- l. Entry in the competition is not complete until the artist is duly registered on the online platform, and has made the submissions required via the online platform, inclusive of the entry form and uploaded images. Submissions not made via the recommended platforms will be disqualified.

Adjudication Criteria

The entries submitted for the competition will be assessed by artists and art educators of experience. Adjudicators will focus on three core aspects of each submission: Craftsmanship, Idea Development and Composition.

- a. Craftsmanship speaks to the technical skills that are manifested in each artwork. It is function of how well the materials employed by the artist have been utilized, as well as an examination of the range of techniques employed, as appropriate to the submission being made.
- b. Composition speaks to the layout of the elements in the artworks. It is a function of how lines, colours, shapes, forms and other elements of art are employed to reflect design principles that are appropriate to the submission being made.
- c. Idea Development is based on an assessment of the compositional elements and the title of the artwork.

It is critical that entries are strong in all three areas. In other words, artworks must demonstrate very sound technical abilities, excellent employment of design elements, and a keen sense of concept in order to receive the highest possible commendation.

Adjudication Process

The adjudication process has three rounds:

- i. In the first round of the adjudication process, which will take place in July, the entries received through the online platform will be assessed based on the comparative visual strength of the submission, with the best pieces being selected for physical adjudication.

Submissions that appear to breach any of the Entry Guidelines outlined above will be disqualified. The outcomes of the adjudication process cannot be appealed, as the adjudicator's decisions are final.

- ii. The second round involves the physical adjudication of the artworks selected from the first round, and will take place in late August. Selected artworks will be taken to one of four regional locations around the island by the artist, depending on the stated address of the artist. Participant artists will be able to observe the adjudication exchanges, and in some instances, have conversations with the adjudicators. The physical examination of the artworks will determine the submissions that are of good quality, as well as those of exceptional or outstanding quality. Submissions of good quality that are deserving of commendation will be conferred with merit awards at the close of the adjudication session.

Outstanding artworks will be collected by the JCDC team for showing in the National Exhibition at the end of the display period. All other artworks will be returned to the artists.

Submissions that appear to breach any of the Entry Guidelines outlined above will be disqualified. The outcomes of the adjudication process cannot be appealed, as the adjudicator's decisions are final.

- iii. The third round of the adjudication, which will take place in early September, involves the gathering of all outstanding submissions from the four regional displays. Through a process of comparative analysis, artworks will be awarded bronze, silver and gold medals as appropriate. Medals indicate a very high standard of technical achievement and visual output that indicates the best of Jamaican cultural identity. The

outcomes of the third round of adjudication will not be revealed until the Awards Ceremony, which is scheduled for early October, 2024.

Submissions that appear to breach any of the Entry Guidelines outlined above will be disqualified. The outcomes of the adjudication process cannot be appealed, as the adjudicator's decisions are final.

Special Awards

The outcomes of the final round of adjudication will also be used to determine special awards. Based on the number of entries received and the quality of the submissions, artists will be considered for the following special trophy prizes for the respective competitions. The best artist in each section must have submitted at least two pieces that received medals in the respective categories.

Youth Competition

- 1. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 1**
- 2. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 2**
- 3. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 3**
- 4. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 4**
5. Most Outstanding Artist in Ceramics
6. Most Outstanding Artist in Collage
7. Most Outstanding Artist in Digital Illustration
8. Most Outstanding Artist in Drawing
9. Most Outstanding Artist in Fiber Art
10. Most Outstanding Artist in Fashion Design
11. Most Outstanding Artist in Jewelry
12. Most Outstanding Artist in Painting
13. Most Outstanding Artist in Photography
14. Most Outstanding Artist in Printmaking
15. Most Outstanding Artist in Sculpture
16. Most Outstanding Artist in Text-Based Designs
17. Most Outstanding Artist in Textile Art

Adult Competition

- 1. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 5 (Academic)**
- 2. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 5 (Intuitive/Outsider)**
3. Most Outstanding Artist in Ceramics

4. Most Outstanding Artist in Collage
5. Most Outstanding Artist in Digital Illustration
6. Most Outstanding Artist in Drawing
7. Most Outstanding Artist in Fiber Art
8. Most Outstanding Artist in Fashion Design
9. Most Outstanding Artist in Jewelry
10. Most Outstanding Artist in Painting
11. Most Outstanding Artist in Photography
12. Most Outstanding Artist in Printmaking
13. Most Outstanding Artist in Sculpture
14. Most Outstanding Artist in Text-Based Designs
15. Most Outstanding Artist in Textile Art

Sponsors of the competition may also facilitate the awarding of special prizes to deserving artists.

JCDC Jamaica Visual Arts Exhibition

The artworks that received medals will be featured in the *JCDC Jamaica Visual Arts Exhibition*, which is being planned for October to December, 2024 in Kingston. If sponsorship allows, the exhibition may travel to other locations of the island.

- a. The artworks submitted for the competition must be available for the duration of the exhibition, and will not be returned to the artists until early January, 2025.

Artworks selected for display in the Jamaica Visual Arts

- b. Exhibition may be listed for sale. The sale of any artwork will be conducted by the JCDC Business Development Office. A commission of 25% of the final sales price will be retained by the JCDC.

Post Exhibition

- a. The exhibition is scheduled to be closed on Sunday December 29, 2024, unless otherwise communicated. Artworks will be returned to the parish offices in mid-January.

- b. Artists are therefore encouraged to make plans to retrieve their artworks from the respective parish offices before January 31, 2025. Submissions not collected by January 31, 2025 will become the property of the JCDC, and used or disposed of as appropriate.
- c. Participants may be invited to participate in art fairs, mentorship groups, and special exhibitions as opportunities arise and funding allows.

Legal Considerations

- a. The JCDC reserves the right to use images or recordings of all entries in the competition that have been selected for an award and/or exhibition without charge in its official digital and physical publications (including its website, social media platforms, etcetera), for archival or promotional purposes. Copyright will remain with the entrant and due credit will be given to the creator of the artwork(s).
- b. Submitting the required entry form and image(s) for the purpose of entering the JCDC Visual Arts Competition will be an indication of a clear agreement to comply with the rules and regulations of this competition.
- c. All artworks must have a stated sales price. This sales price will function as the insurance value of the artwork. The JCDC will insure the artworks submitted to a maximum value of J\$50,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: (876) 926-5726-9, ext 1148

WhatsApp: 876-859-2093

Email: visarts@jcdc.gov.jm