

JCDC 20 VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION 25

Handbook



Competition Overview

The Jamaica Visual Arts Competition is open to artists six years and older. Artists must be living in Jamaica from at least 1 January 2023. Artists may submit creative work made of any material, or expressing any creative idea, once these are broadcast worthy (not lewd, violent, misogynistic, discriminatory, or otherwise socially problematic).

Submissions are only accepted through our designated online portal, which may be accessed through the JCDC website [www.jcdc.gov.jm/competitions/Jamaica-visual-arts]. The submission period for entries is **June 1-30, 2025**.

As is the case in 2024, entries are accepted in thirteen creative disciplines:

1. Ceramics
2. Collage
3. Digital Illustration
4. Drawing
5. Fiber Art
6. Fashion Design
7. Jewelry
8. Painting
9. Photography
10. Printmaking
11. Sculpture
12. Text-Based Designs
13. Textile Art.



J. MacMillan – Body Modification, and L. McKoy – Enclosed With Treasure

Classes

Prior to submitting an entry, artists are required to indicate their age range, or class. There are six classes in the 2025 competition:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Class I | 6-8 Years |
| 2. Class II | 9-11 Years |
| 3. Class III | 12-14 Years |
| 4. Class IV | 15-17 Years |
| 5. Class V | 18-20 Years |
| 6. Class VI | 21 Years and older |



J. Brown – Colon Man A Come

Entries for each class are adjudicated separately.

Intuitive Artists

Entrants in Class 6 (21 years and older) who submit work in the disciplines of ceramics, drawing, painting, and sculpture will be considered for assessment as part of the Intuitive art group. Included artworks will be based on the visual approaches, conceptual concerns, and creative biography of the artist.

Generally, Intuitive artists consistently present work that manifest pictorial representations that reflect very limited exposure to, and application of, the visual principles that define Euro-American pictorial traditions and academic approaches.



M. Hennie – The Matriarch

Themes

The competition is not based on any theme whatsoever. 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 experimental and non-experimental artworks made of any media.

Nonetheless, given the mandate of the JCDC to preserve Jamaica's cultural heritage, it would be good for artists to consider preparing artworks that reflect their unique Jamaican experiences. Those who are in the process of creating work for the competition, and who may desire some guidance with regards to Jamaican themes, may consider this list:

- a. Digital Technology
- b. Dressin Up
- c. Fambily and Community
- d. Fun and Games
- e. Heroes, Sacrifice and Leadership



K. Blake – Crown of the Gardens I

- 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 Tings, Bickle & Flavours
- p. Teaching Time
- q. Transportation
- r. Vision 2062

Entry Guidelines/Process

- a. The competition is open to all artists six (6) years and older who have been resident in Jamaica since January 1, 2023.
- b. JCDC Staff, Adjudicators, or members of the Visual Arts Committee cannot participate in the competition.
- c. Entries will be accepted **ONLY** via our online portal in the period June 1-30, 2025. 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 from the JCDC website [www.jcdc.gov.jm/competitions/Jamaica-visual-arts]. Submissions not made via the recommended platforms will be disqualified.
- d. 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 adjudication outcomes for each phase of the competition will also be sent to the respective parish offices.

- e. Artists must use their current address upon entry, as this has implications for the adjudication, collection, display, and return of your artworks. Where the incorrect address is provided, there may be delays in the adjudication, collection, or return of the artwork to the artist. The JCDC bears no fault for inconvenience or damage due to the use of incorrect address data by any artist.
- f. All artists must provide clear and properly cropped photographs of their completed artworks, an appropriate artwork title, as well as information on the materials used to create the artwork in order to submit an entry in the competition. Incomplete entries will be disqualified.
- g. An artist may submit up to seven (7) artworks for the competition. The seven (7) artworks may be in any single creative discipline or category, or may be spread across any of the thirteen creative disciplines/categories. Entries submitted in the incorrect creative discipline or category may be disqualified.
- h. The image and information for each artwork should be submitted separately. Where multiple images of different artworks are submitted under a single title, as one entry, the entries may be disqualified.
- i. Every artwork MUST have a unique title for proper identification during the competition. Artists submitting multiple entries that have the same artwork title should distinguish the entries by adding Roman numerals to each title, eg. Artwork I, Artwork II, Artwork III.
- j. 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.
- k. No artwork that was partially or fully made with the assistance of AI Technology of any kind will be accepted in the competition. Artworks that are found to have been AI Supported or AI Created will be disqualified.
- l. With the exception of jewelry, fashion design, and other wearable accessories (including handbags, etc), small three dimensional entries must

have a minimum height and width of 12 inches; while large three dimensional entries must have a maximum height/length of 60 inches, and a maximum width of 40 inches. Artworks that are not within the recommended size range will be disqualified.

- m. Fashion design submissions must be the constructed wearable garment, and/or accessories. Drawings or illustrations of intended designs should NOT be submitted under this category/creative discipline.
- n. Two dimensional artworks must have a minimum unframed height and width of 12 inches, and a maximum unframed height of 60 inches, and a maximum unframed width of 40 inches. If the unframed image is smaller than 12 inches (for the height or width), or larger than 40 inches (unframed width), or taller than 60 inches (unframed height), then the artwork will be disqualified.
- o. 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 in the competition at which the breach is identified.
- p. We desire newly minted submissions for our annual competition, and therefore, all entries for the 2025 competition must be artworks completed after January 1, 2024. Artworks that were completed before January 1, 2024 will be disqualified.
- q. All artworks that are advanced to the final round of the competition must be submitted in an installation/exhibition ready format. Artworks that are to be installed by hanging must have appropriate cabling, or hooks for suspending/hanging the artworks. Any hanging artwork that is not submitted in an installation/exhibition ready manner will be disqualified.
- r. Where special stands are required for the display of three dimensional artworks, such as jewelry, these are to be made available by the artist. Any standing artwork that is not submitted in an installation/exhibition ready manner will be disqualified.

- s. All entries made on the approved online platform will be taken as an indication of a commitment to adhere to all rules and regulations outlined in this document.

Adjudication Process

The adjudication process has four rounds:

- a. In the first round, which takes place in early July, there will be a review of the entry data submitted for each artwork. Among the considerations will be artwork creation dates, artwork sizes, and creative disciplines. Any artwork that is found to be in breach of the requirements outlined under the entry guidelines for creation date, artwork size, and other related data will not be advanced to the second round. The content and quality of the artwork/image submitted is NOT a criterion under consideration for this round.
- b. In the second round, which is scheduled for early-July, adjudicators will assess the images submitted by each entrant, and consider, via online review, the comparative quality of the artworks received in each class, based on the expected standards for the respective age groups (as illustrated in the catalogues of past competitions). Adjudicators will determine if the artwork should be submitted for in-person review based primarily on the visual qualities observed. Artists will be notified of the outcome of the adjudication process via written correspondence (such as email).
- c. The third round involves the physical review of the artworks advancing from the second round, and will take place in mid-July. Selected artworks will be taken to the parish office/designated adjudication centre by the artist, or a representative, on the date indicated via written communication. The estimated review time will be approximately 60 minutes. Artworks do not need to be installation/exhibition ready at this stage. However, photographic and digital illustrations must be printed for the adjudicators to review.

Each entry will be assessed based on the visual strength of the submission, as per the expected standards for the respective age groups (the catalogues of past competitions will be consulted for guidance). Participants may be able to observe the adjudication exchanges, and/or have conversations with the adjudicators. Artists will be notified of the outcome of the adjudication process via written correspondence (such as email). This communication will advise entrants with regards to the date, time, and location for the collection of artworks that are advancing to the final round.

- d. The final round of adjudication takes place in late August, following the collection of all outstanding submissions from around the island. All artworks that have been advanced to the final round must be display/exhibition ready by the collection date communicated in writing following the second round, or will be disqualified from the competition.

Based on the average grades received from the adjudicators in the final round, artworks may be awarded bronze, silver and gold medals, or merit badges/certificates, depending on the technical qualities of the respective submissions. The outcomes of the final round of adjudication will not be revealed until the Awards Ceremony, which is scheduled for early October, 2025.

Submissions that appear to breach any of the Entry Guidelines outlined at any stage of the review process will be disqualified. The outcomes of the adjudication process cannot be appealed, as the adjudicators' decisions are final.

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, Composition and Cultural Relevance.

- a. Craftsmanship speaks to the technical skills that are manifested in each artwork. It is a 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.
- d. Cultural Relevance is an assessment of the extent to which the artwork reflects, suggests, or depicts recognizable aspects of Jamaican cultural heritage.



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

Special Awards

The outcomes of the final round of adjudication will also be used to determine special awards. Special awards are determined by the number and quality of the medals received by individual entrants. Artists must be the recipient of at least two medals to be considered for an award in these categories. Where no artist has met this criterion no award will be given.

Youth Competitors (Class 1-4)

- 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 Competitors (Class 5-6)

- 1. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 5 (Young Adult)**
- 2. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 6 (Adult Academic)**
- 3. Most Outstanding Artist in Class 6 (Adult Intuitive)**
4. Most Outstanding Artist in Ceramics
5. Most Outstanding Artist in Collage
6. Most Outstanding Artist in Digital Illustration
7. Most Outstanding Artist in Drawing
8. Most Outstanding Artist in Fiber Art
9. Most Outstanding Artist in Fashion Design
10. Most Outstanding Artist in Jewelry



11. Most Outstanding Artist in Painting
12. Most Outstanding Artist in Photography
13. Most Outstanding Artist in Printmaking
14. Most Outstanding Artist in Sculpture
15. Most Outstanding Artist in Text-Based Designs
16. Most Outstanding Artist in Textile Art

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

JCDC Visual Arts Exhibitions

The artworks that received medals will be featured in the *JCDC Visual Arts Exhibitions* (Physical and Online) in October and November, 2025. Physical exhibitions may be held in Kingston, St. Ann, St. James, Manchester, and St. Catherine, depending on the availability of display spaces.

Artists should therefore be mindful that:

- a. The artworks submitted for the competition must be available for the period July, 2025 to December, 2025.
- b. Artworks selected for display in the JCDC Visual Arts 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.



View of 2024 Exhibition at the Olympia Art Centre in Kingston

Post Exhibition

- a. The physical exhibitions of outstanding artworks will close by the end of November, 2025, unless otherwise communicated. Arrangements will be made to have the artworks returned to the artists, or an approved representative, as soon as the exhibitions end.
- b. At the close of the exhibitions, artists who are not available to collect their artworks, or who fail to provide a suitable presentative to receive the artworks, or who fail to provide an appropriate return address for the delivery of their artwork, will have until December 31, 2025 to collect their art from the relevant JCDC parish office. Artworks that are not collected by December 31, 2025 will become the property of the JCDC, and will be used or disposed of as the JCDC deems appropriate.
- c. Following the closure of the JCDC exhibitions, the creators of outstanding art may be invited to participate in art fairs, workshops, mentorship groups, and special exhibitions in the first half of 2026, as opportunities arise.

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, handbooks, flyers, etcetera). 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 data, and image(s), for the purpose of entering the JCDC Visual Arts Competition is understood by the JCDC to be a clear agreement to comply with the rules and regulations of this competition.
- c. Where damage to an artwork occurs while the artwork is in the custody of the JCDC, the competition is governed by the principle of restoration, which means concern will be limited to correcting only the damage that has been

shown to have occurred whilst the artwork is in the possession of the JCDC for the specified loan period, which ends on December 31, 2025.

- d. Artworks must have a stated sales price. This sales price will function as the insurance value of the artwork. While artists are free to indicate any price for their work, the JCDC will insure the artworks submitted to a maximum restorative value of J\$50,000.
- e. The JCDC will not be liable for minor damage(s) to an artwork that is presented to the JCDC without protective framing, such as minor abrasions that may occur on the edges of a gallery-wrapped two dimensional artworks.
- f. Damages observed must be reported to the Visual Arts Development Specialist for immediate restorative consultation, and for the completion of the relevant documents.
- g. Action will be taken to carry out restorative repairs to frames, or for repairing damages to the paint, fiber, or other aspects of the physical artwork, as priced by a reputable service provider selected by the JCDC.
- h. Where the cost to restore/repair exceeds the maximum insurance value, as indicated by the reputable service provider, then the maximum value that will be considered as reimbursement to the artist will be the insurance maximum of \$50,000.



Our Mission

To influence national development positively by creating opportunities that unearth, develop, preserve and promote the creative talents and cultural expressions of the Jamaican people, through a professional and dynamic team, thereby advancing brand Jamaica worldwide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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