



2025 Art Portfolio Contest for High School Senior

Florida State Fairgrounds

Sponsored by Florida Dairy Farmers



32 student portfolios accepted

The Art Portfolio Contest for High School Seniors is the highlight of the Fair's Youth Art Competitions. **Out of 360 students from 96 schools in 31 counties that entered their portfolios, only 32 student portfolios were chosen by our panel of jurors to exhibit their work at the 2025 Florida State Fair.**

We are fortunate to have the Florida Dairy Farmers as our sponsor. Florida's dairy farmers work daily to provide delicious and nutritious dairy products like milk, cheese, and yogurt that fuel creative young minds.

\$10,000 in scholarship money will be awarded this year!

First Place: \$3000 • Second Place: \$2000
10 Awards of Merit: \$500 each



Words from our judges

What an honor it is to serve as a judge for this exhibition! As someone who looks at art all day (mostly by adults), it's a breath of fresh air to view the work of these high school seniors. There is so much energy and creativity in these portfolios, making it incredibly difficult to narrow down my choices to fit the parameters of the final exhibition. The participants in this show each demonstrate a singularity of vision and their work forms a cohesive whole and evokes emotion, whether it be joy, angst, discomfort, or humor.

The two top award winners both render familial scenes with skill and sensitivity, adding a completely modern twist to traditional portraits and snapshots of family life. With a vibrant yet soothing palette of pinks and purples, Rowan Pan brings their childhood memories to life while grappling with what it means to grow older and break away from family traditions and expectations.

Leighton Wyatt also paints scenes of daily life but uses non-traditional surfaces to tell her visual stories, such as those found China plates and charcuterie boards. This brings not only an interesting physical dimension to her work but also adds to her narrative as well, bringing these common objects to life.

Congratulations to all the award winners and the participants in this exhibition. Your exceptional work will stay with me for a long time, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for you as you continue to excel in your artistic practice.



Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Natalie Galan

School: Gibbs High School

County: Pinellas **Teacher:** Brian McAllister

Media: Drawing



Title: Compassion's Oxymoron



Title: Trench of Regrets

McKayla M. Carwile

Title: Roadkill

School: East Lake High School

County: Pinellas **Teacher:** Nathan Greenwood

Media: 2D Mixed Media



Title: Hey ma,
they are getting in
the trash again!



Kayla Guzman

Title: Backstage at an
Empty Show

School: Gibbs High School

County: Pinellas **Teacher:** Brian McAllister

Media: 2D Mixed Media



Title: Rarely
as it seems



Alana J. Smith

School: St. Petersburg High School

County: Pinellas **Teacher:** Rachel Koral

Media: Drawing



Title: Alice

Title: Digital Witness