

City of Melville Art Awards 2025

Overview

- The City of Melville Art Award is open to all Western Australian Visual Artists
- Melville Art Awards is a selective exhibition, an independent selection panel will assess entries, entrants will be notified if they are finalists
- There is no fee to enter
- Selected finalists will be required to pay a \$25 participation fee (\$15 for Youth Award entries)
All artworks must be for sale, except those entered in the Youth Award category
- No commission is charged on artwork sales; artists receive 100% of their sale price
- Artwork maximum size and weight restrictions are:
 - Two-dimensional (2D) works- **maximum size 110cm** in any direction (including frame), max weight 15kg
 - Three-dimensional (3D) works – **maximum size 80cm** in any direction (not including plinth), max weight 20kg

Key information for artists

- **Entries open:** 9.00am, Tuesday, 9 September and close at 9.00pm, Sunday, 21 September
- **Notification:** entrants will be notified as to whether they have been selected as a finalist by 5.00pm, Friday, 26 September
- **Exhibition location:** City of Melville Main Hall, located behind the City of Melville Civic Centre
- **Exhibition times and dates:** 9.00am to 5.00pm, Saturday, 25 October to Sunday, 9 November (closed Monday's)
- **Artwork delivery session 1:** 2.00pm to 6.00pm, Friday, 17 October
- **Artwork delivery session 2:** 10.00am to 4.00pm, Saturday, 18 October
- **Artwork collection session 1:** 3.00pm to 5.00pm, Sunday, 9 November
- **Artwork collection session 2:** 2.00pm to 6.00pm, Monday, 10 November

Categories & prizes – total prize pool of \$18,500

- Overall Award (acquisitive) - \$8,500 (cash prize), acquired into City of Melville Art Collection
- Second prize- \$1,000 (cash prize)
- Third prize - \$1,000 (cash prize)
- First Nations Award - \$1,000 (cash prize)
- Highly Commended First Nations Award - \$500 [Jackson's](#) gift card
- City of Melville Resident Award - \$1,000 (gift cards)
- Highly Commended City of Melville Resident Award - \$500 [Jackson's](#) gift card
- Creative Melville Award - \$1,000 (cash prize)
- Highly Commended Creative Melville Award - \$500 [Jackson's](#) gift card
- Youth Award - \$1000 (cash prize)
- Youth Highly Commended Award - \$500 (cash prize)
- Arts Development Award (for [early career](#) Melville Artists) - \$1,000 (cash prize)
- People's Choice Award - \$1,000 (cash prize) and a one-year membership to the selected artist to [Alfred Cove Art Society](#)
- Print Award – One year membership to the [Printmakers Association of Western Australia](#) (PAWA) plus 10 sessions in their studio

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Prizes and categories

1. All artists will be automatically considered for the Overall, Second and Third prizes and People's Choice Awards, artists do not have to self-nominate for these categories.
2. The **Overall Award** is acquisitive - the City of Melville will acquire the winning artwork by exchange for the cash value of the prize (\$8,500) and the work will be accessioned to the City of Melville's Art Collection. If the artwork value is more than the cash prize the artist has the right to refuse the Overall Award, and the Judging panel will select a new Overall Award winner.
3. **Youth Category** – entrants must be a City of Melville resident or be attending a school within the City of Melville boundaries, self-nominate, and be between 15 -18 years old at the time of entering.
4. **First Nations Awards** – entrants must self-nominate and identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
5. **City of Melville Resident Award** - artists who are residents or are working in studios within the City of Melville boundaries artworks will be entered automatically into the City of Melville Resident Award.
6. **Creative Melville Award** – This special award encourages artworks that explore themes related to Melville's built and natural environments, local heritage, and sense of place. Artists must self-nominate to be considered for this award, and the artist statement must outline how the artwork responds to the award criteria.
7. **Arts Development Award** – entrants must self-nominate to be considered for the Arts Development Award. This special award is designed for [early career artists](#) working or living within Melville City boundaries, actively pursuing a career as an artist. The winner receives ongoing access to mentorship, professional development opportunities including the option of a solo exhibition supported by the City.
8. **Print Award** – entrants must self-nominate for the Print Award. Prints must have an element that is hand-pulled to be eligible for this prize in line with sponsors [Printmakers Association of Western Australia's](#) ethos. This includes the techniques of etching, engraving, lithography, woodcuts, linocuts, screen printing and other forms of medial used in the art of producing hand-printed graphics.

Artwork specifications

9. Artworks must be the original work and a concept of the submitting artist and not infringe any existing copyright.
10. Artworks created entirely using AI will not be accepted. Artworks generated in part from AI must be disclosed and a description of the AI tools and methods employed in the creation process must be included in your artist statement.
11. The City of Melville will not accept responsibility for the visual representation/ interpretation of any works. It is the artist's responsibility to ensure that his/her work is not subject to libel, defamation of character or in violation of copyright laws. By entering the artwork into the award, the artist agrees to provide indemnity to the City of Melville in case of any breach.
12. As part of the selection panel process, works will be reviewed for potential cultural appropriation. Art that draws on cultural themes, stories, or traditional Indigenous techniques must be created by artists who hold with the appropriate authority and permission to share this knowledge. To learn more about cultural appropriation, we encourage you to watch this informative talk:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALXEq5wpT0w>
13. To ensure a fresh and engaging experience for audiences—and to give artists a fair opportunity to showcase new work—artworks must have been completed within the past 12 months. Works should not have been widely exhibited (shown multiple times) or included in other metropolitan Perth art awards. If you're unsure whether your work meets these criteria, please don't hesitate to get in touch to confirm.
14. Each entrant may submit one work into the Melville Art Awards.
15. Flat D-rings must be installed at the back of the work, approximately one third down or 10cm from the top of the frame. See Appendix 1 for more information.
16. Diptychs or Triptychs will be accepted as one artwork, and the total display area must not exceed the 110cm x 110cm size limit.
17. 3D artworks must be suitable for display on a plinth and be delivered with an image of the correctly configured artwork attached. Should assembly be required, the artist must assist with the work's installation. Artists submitting 3D work are encouraged to make contact prior to entry to discuss display requirements.
18. No changes may be made to an artwork after it has been accepted for inclusion in the exhibition.
19. Please note that your work may not be displayed to your complete satisfaction owing to the large number of works and limited space. The City of Melville reserves the right not to display all works accepted if the quality of the work is not to exhibition standard or poses a safety hazard.
20. City of Melville staff reserve the right to accept or decline artworks that exceed or challenge the stated size and weight limits.

21. Artworks must be completely dry, delivered suitably presented for exhibition and ready for display/hanging. Frames that are poor quality, weak, reused or visibly marked or damaged frames will not be accepted. City of Melville staff have the right to refuse delivery of artworks if the work is not delivered at exhibition standard.

Entry Process

1. All entries to the City of Melville Art Awards are free of charge
2. If accepted, finalists will be charged a fee of \$25.00 or \$15.00 for Youth entries. Once a finalist has paid this fee, it is not refundable, even if the work is withdrawn or removed from the exhibition prior to the opening
3. Artworks must be complete (but can be unframed) at the time of being photographed for entry. Incomplete artworks cannot be assessed by the selection panel.
4. The online entry form will be available from our website <https://www.melvillecity.com.au/artawards> during the call for entry dates and times advertised above.
5. Artists entering online must email between 1 and up to 3 photographs in **.JPG** file format clearly showing the artwork. Please rename files using this format - **lastname_firstname.jpg**
6. Hardcopy entry forms will be available from the City of Melville Civic Centre Reception during the call for entry dates, during business hours, advertised above.
7. Artists entering using a hardcopy form at the City of Melville Civic Centre Reception must provide printed photographs of their artwork for the selection panel to assess.
8. Artists are asked to submit an artist statement (100 words) with their entry. An artist statement is an artist's written description of their artwork explaining the ideas, theme and the medium used to create the work. For advice on how to write an artist statement, view this [NAVA fact sheet](#) or research online.
9. City of Melville staff will communicate with you via the email address provided in your entry form. You will receive a confirmation email once your entry has been received. If you haven't received this email, check your junk email. It is your responsibility to ensure that arts.melville@melville.wa.gov.au is added to your safe sender list
10. All artwork images will remain confidential and only be accessed by City of Melville staff and the selection panel. Artwork images will be deleted on completion of the exhibition and will not be used for any purpose other than the assessment and identification of artwork.
11. City of Melville staff and their immediate family members, defined as those residing in the same household, are eligible to enter the Melville Art Awards, if selected as a finalist, staff and their family members are not eligible to win a prize.

Exhibition and sales

Email: arts.melville@melville.wa.gov.au
General Enquiries Tel: 1300 635 845 | 9364 0666

12. The City does not take a commission on sales and makes no guarantee of sale. Artists will receive 100% of their advertised sale price, should their artwork sell.
13. The sale price cannot be changed once the entry form is submitted and remains fixed for the duration of the Exhibition.
14. All artworks must be for sale, except for worked entered in the Youth Category.
15. The sale price indicated in the entry form shall be published in the catalogue and shall remain fixed for the duration of the exhibition.
16. Artworks will not be handed over to the purchaser until 100% of the artwork sale has been received.
17. Artists will receive payment for the sale of their artwork, within four weeks of the sale of artwork and once full payment has been made by the purchaser.
18. If an artwork is sold, it is the artists responsibility to supply a valid tax invoice to the City for the sale amount. Payment for sold artworks will be administered by the City within 30 days of receiving the invoice
19. If the artist:
 - Has an ABN and is registered for GST, GST must be included in the sale price.
 - Has an ABN and is not registered for GST, GST must not be included in the sale price.
 - Does not have an ABN, they must provide a signed Statement by Supplier Form [available from the ATO](#). Failure to do so will result in the City of Melville withholding 47% of the sale price as directed by the ATO.
20. Whilst all care is taken in exhibiting the works, the City accepts no responsibility for any damage that may inadvertently occur, insurance is the exclusive responsibility of the artist. Artists are advised to insure their work against loss, theft or damage, and are responsible for their own transit insurance to and from the exhibition venue.

Artwork delivery and collection

21. Artworks cannot be accepted after the final delivery session due to the short timeframe between artwork receipt, judging and installation of the exhibition.
22. Artworks are to be collected at the specified times listed above. The City reserves the right to dispose of uncollected artworks after twelve months post the exhibition.
23. Purchasers of artworks will be asked to collect the work during the collection session times listed above. Staff will liaise directly with the artist on any details or requirements for handing the artwork over to the purchaser.
24. Where works are to be return-freighted they will be packed to ensure the quality and amount of packing material is sufficient for the safe return transportation of the work.

Selection and Judging process

25. The City of Melville will appoint selection and judging panellists that hold fine art expertise and have relevant professional experience within the Western Australian Visual Arts industry.
26. When considering artworks, both panels consider the following criteria:
 - Technical skills -mastery of medium, quality of execution
 - Aesthetics
 - Innovation / extending the boundaries of the medium
 - Conceptual strength
27. The panellists' decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into. If in the Judges' opinion there is no entry of an adequate standard in any category, the Judges may refrain from making an award.

Reproduction, promotion and copyright

28. The exhibition and artworks will be professionally photographed for the purpose of documentation and promotion of the Art Awards. The artist agrees to provide the City with a license to reproduce their artwork in part or whole by print or electronic media only for non-commercial purposes for promotion, review and educational purposes and future promotion of the Melville Art Award.
29. The City will seek approval from artists whose artworks are photographed in part (cropped) before use and artists whose artworks are clearly featured in promotional images will be credited whenever possible.
30. The artist agrees to allow any work that is purchased for the City of Melville Art Collection to be reproduced by print or electronic media for promotion, educational purposes and collection management of the City of Melville Art Collection.
31. If an artwork entered previously into Melville Art Awards is to be featured as a promotional image in marketing campaigns for the Awards, the City of Melville will negotiate a licensing fee with the Artist in line with fees advised by [The Copyright Agency](#).

Please direct all enquiries to:

City of Melville Art Awards team

arts.melville@melville.wa.gov.au 1300 635 845

Appendix 1: Artwork specifications

2D, wall-based artworks must not:

- Exceed size limit of 110cm in any direction, including the frame
- Weigh more than 10kg

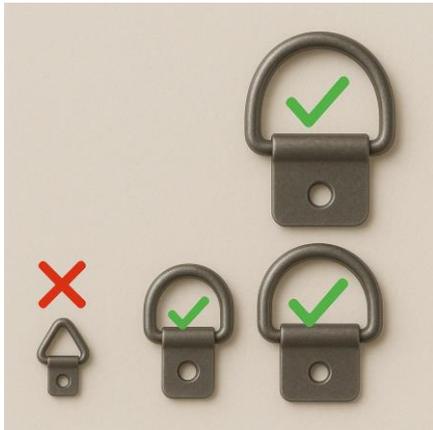
3D artworks must not:

- Exceed 80cm in any direction
- Weigh more than 25kg

Diptychs or Triptychs will be accepted as one artwork, and their total display area must not exceed the 110cm x 110cm size limit. Each panel must have the appropriate hanging device for display. Display instructions must clearly indicate the layout for panels (e.g.: left, centre, right).

D-Rings

- Install larger sized D-rings wherever possible
- Avoid using small or triangle shaped D-rings



Placement of D-Rings

- Install D-rings approximately 10cm or a third down from the top edge of the artwork, to help it hang flat against the wall. Position indicated by the green line.

