

City of Melville Art Awards 2026

Terms and Conditions

Overview

- The City of Melville Art Awards is open to all Western Australian visual artists.
- The Melville Art Awards is a selective exhibition. Entries will be assessed by a selection panel comprising of City of Melville representatives and independent arts professionals. Entrants will be notified if their work is selected as a finalist.
- There is no fee to submit an entry.
- Selected finalists will be required to pay a participation fee of \$25. Finalists in the Youth Award category will be required to pay a participation fee of \$15. This fee is required upon artwork delivery.
- All artworks must be available for sale, except those entered in the Youth Award category.
- No commission is charged on artwork sales. Artists will receive 100% of the sale price.
- Artwork maximum size and weight restrictions are:
 - **Two-dimensional (2D) works:** Maximum size of 110cm in any direction (including frame), and a maximum weight of 15kg.
 - **Three-dimensional (3D) works:** Maximum size 80cm in any direction (excluding plinth), and a maximum weight of 20kg.
- The City of Melville reserves the right to update these Terms and Conditions as required.

Key Dates for Artists

- **Entries open:** 9.00am, Tuesday 1 September 2026 or once 400 submissions have been received.
- **Entries close:** 12.00am, Sunday 13 September 2026
- **Finalists notified by:** 5.00pm, Wednesday, 23 September 2026
- **Exhibition venue:** City of Melville Main Hall (located behind the City of Melville Civic Centre)
- **Exhibition dates:** Saturday 24 October to Sunday 8 November 2026
- **Exhibition hours:** 10.00am to 5.00pm daily (closed Mondays)
- **Artwork delivery session:** 10.00am to 6.00pm, Friday 16 October 2026
- **Artwork collection session 1:** 10.00am to 5.00pm, Monday 9 November 2026
- **Artwork collection session 2:** 2.00pm to 6.00pm, Tuesday 10 November 2026

Categories and Prizes

Category	Prize	Eligibility/ Selection Criteria
Overall Award (Acquisitive)	\$10,000 cash prize and acquisition into the City of Melville Art Collection	All artists automatically considered. Winning artwork is acquired by the City of Melville. If the artwork value exceeds \$10,000, the artist may choose to decline the award, and the Judging panel will select an alternative Overall winner.
Second Prize	\$1,000 cash prize	Automatically considered.
Third Prize	\$1,000 cash prize	Automatically considered.
First Nations Award	\$1,000 cash prize and \$250 Jacksons Gift Basket	Artists must self-nominate and identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
Highly Commended First Nations Award	\$500 gift card	Artists must self-nominate and identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
City of Melville Resident Award	\$1,000 gift card	Automatically considered for artists who reside in the City of Melville or operate a studio within the City of Melville.
Highly Commended City of Melville Resident Award	\$500 gift card	Same eligibility as the City of Melville Resident Award.
Creative Melville Award	\$1,000 cash prize	Artists must self-nominate. A special award for artworks exploring theme's relating to Melville's built and natural environments, local heritage, or sense of place. Artist statement must address how the artwork responds to selection criteria.
Highly Commended Creative Melville Award	\$500 cash prize	Same eligibility as the Creative Melville Award.
Youth Award	\$1,000 cash prize	Artists must self-nominate, be aged 15-18, and either reside in the City of Melville or attend a school within the City boundaries.
Highly Commended Youth Award	\$500 cash prize	Same eligibility as the Youth Award.
People's Choice Award	\$1,000 cash prize	Automatically considered. Determined by public voting.
Print Award	One year membership to the Printmakers Association of Western Australia (PAWA) plus 10 sessions in their studio and two complimentary skill share sessions.	Artists must self-nominate for the Print Award. Eligible techniques include etching, engraving, lithography, woodcut, linocut, screen printing and other hand-printing processes.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Artwork Specifications

- Artworks must be the original work and concept of the submitting artist and must not infringe the copyright or intellectual property rights of any other person.
- Artworks created entirely using artificial intelligence (AI) will not be accepted. Where AI has been used as part of the creative process, artists must disclose its use and provide details of the tools and methods employed in their statement.
- The City of Melville accepts no responsibility for the content or interpretation of submitted artworks. Artists are responsible for ensuring their 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.
- As part of the selection panel process, artworks will be reviewed for potential cultural appropriation. Artworks that draw 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>
- Artworks must have been completed within the 12 months preceding the entry closing date. Works must not have been exhibited extensively or entered into other metropolitan Perth art awards. Artists who are unsure of their eligibility are encouraged to contact the City of Melville before submitting an entry.
- Each entrant may submit one artwork into the Melville Art Awards.
- Two-dimensional artworks must be fitted with flat D-rings positioned approximately one-third of the way down, or 10 cm from the top of the frame. Refer to Appendix 1 for installation requirements.
- Diptychs or triptychs will be accepted as one artwork, and the total display area must not exceed the 110cm x 110cm size limit in any direction.
- Three-dimensional artworks must be suitable for display on a plinth and be delivered with a reference image showing the artwork correctly installed. Where assembly is required, artists must assist with the installation of their work. Artists are encouraged to discuss any special display requirements with the City prior to submission.
- No changes may be made to an artwork after it has been accepted as a finalist.
- Due to exhibition space and display requirements, the City of Melville cannot guarantee that artworks will be displayed in accordance with the artist's preferred presentation. The City reserves the right not to exhibit accepted artworks that are deemed unsuitable for display, not of exhibition standard, or present a safety risk.
- The City of Melville staff reserve the right to accept or decline artworks that exceed or challenge the stated size and weight limits.

- Artworks must be completely dry, professionally presented, and ready for display at the time of delivery. Frames that are damaged, unstable, poorly constructed, heavily worn, or otherwise unsuitable for exhibition will not be accepted. The City of Melville reserves the right to refuse any artwork that does not meet exhibition standards.
- The City of Melville reserves the right to request additional information from an artist to verify artwork authorship, originality, eligibility, or compliance with these Terms and Conditions.

Entry Process

- All entries to the City of Melville Art Awards are free of charge.
- Finalists will be required to pay a participation fee of \$25.00, or \$15.00 for Youth Award Finalists. Participation fees are non-refundable, including where an artwork is withdrawn or removed from the exhibition prior to opening. Payment is required upon artwork delivery.
- 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.
- The online entry form will be available from the City of Melville's website at <https://www.melvillecity.com.au/artawards> during the advertised entry period or once 400 submissions have been received.
- Artists entering online must upload one JPG image that clearly show the artwork. Image files must be named using the format: lastname_firstname.jpg. The maximum file size is 5MB.
- Hardcopy entry forms will be available from the City of Melville Civic Centre Reception during the advertised entry period or once 400 submissions have been received.
- Artists submitting a hardcopy entry at the City of Melville Civic Centre Reception must provide a printed photograph of their artwork for the selection panel to assess.
- Artists are asked to submit an artist statement of up to 500 characters 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.
- All correspondence will be sent to the email address provided in the entry form. Artists will receive a confirmation email once their entry has been received. If a confirmation email is not received, artists should check their junk or spam folder and ensure arts.melville@melville.wa.gov.au has been added to their safe sender list.
- Artwork images submitted as part of the entry process will be used solely for assessment, administration, and identification purposes. Access will be limited to City of Melville staff and the selection panel.
- 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.
- The City of Melville reserves the right to reject incomplete, inaccurate, late, or non-compliant entries.

Exhibition and Sales

- The City of Melville 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.
- The sale price cannot be changed once the entry form is submitted and remains fixed for the duration of the Exhibition.
- All artworks must be for sale, except for worked entered in the Youth Category.
- The sale price indicated in the entry form shall be published in the catalogue and shall remain fixed for the duration of the exhibition.
- Artworks will not be handed over to the purchaser until 100% of the artwork sale has been received.
- 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.
- If an artwork is sold, it is the artists responsibility to supply a valid tax invoice to the City of Melville for the sale amount. Payment for sold artworks will be administered by the City of Melville within 30 days of receiving the invoice
- 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.
- Whilst all care is taken in exhibiting the works, the City of Melville 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

- Artworks cannot be accepted after the final delivery session due to the short timeframe between artwork receipt, judging and installation of the exhibition.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 at the cost of the artist.

Selection and Judging Process

- 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.
- When considering artworks, both panels consider the following criteria:
 - Technical skill: mastery of medium and quality of execution
 - Aesthetic quality: visual impact and artistic merit
 - Innovation and originality: originality and the extent to which the work extends or challenges the boundaries of its medium
 - Conceptual strength: clarity, depth and effectiveness of the ideas communicated through the artwork
- 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

- 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 of Melville 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.
- The City of Melville 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.
- 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.
- 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](#).

Contact Information

For further information regarding the City of Melville Art Awards, please contact:

City of Melville Art Awards team

arts.melville@melville.wa.gov.au

1300 635 845

Appendix 1: Artwork Specifications

Two-Dimensional (2D) Artworks

Wall-based artworks must:

- Not exceed 110 cm in any direction, including the frame.
- Not weigh more than 15 kg.
- Be fitted with flat D-rings in accordance with the hanging requirements outlined in these Terms and Conditions.

Three-Dimensional (3D) Artworks

Three-dimensional artworks must:

- Not exceed 80 cm in any direction (excluding plinth).
- Not weigh more than 20 kg.
- Be suitable for display on a plinth.

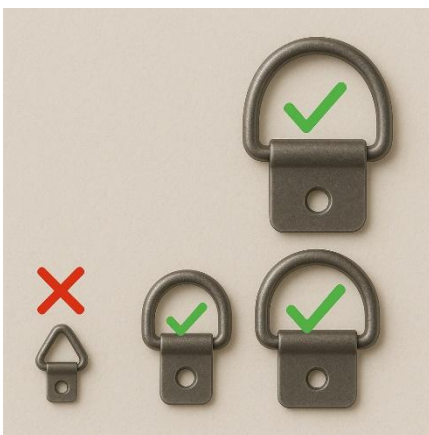
Diptychs and Triptychs

Diptychs and triptychs will be accepted as a single artwork, provided the total display area does not exceed the maximum size limit of 110 cm in any direction.

Each panel must be fitted with the appropriate hanging hardware and be ready for installation. Artists must provide clear display instructions indicating the correct panel arrangement (for example left, centre and 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.

