

MNA Heritage Festivals of Art and Culture

Judging Guidelines 2020

MNA Heritage Festivals offer a balance of traditional and contemporary cultural presentations, performances, and activities— providing visitors with a deeper insight into the Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, and Latino cultures thriving on the Colorado Plateau. MNA’s four festivals and monthly programs highlight the region’s diversity and, encourage communication and the exchange of ideas between visitors, educators, and artists. Art, music, performances, and Heritage Insights lectures, together create cultural understanding and a forum for dialogue.

The festivals are an important opportunity for artists to have their work juried and win cash prizes in the annual ‘Awards of Excellence’ competition. Judging takes place before the start of each festival so the winning artists can be recognized for their achievements during the festival weekend.

Entry Rules:

Entries in the ‘Awards of Excellence’ juried competition are held to standards and regulations established by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board as follows:

- Jewelry must be handmade of natural materials and must comply with the applicable federal and state regulations regarding natural materials. Acceptable commercial findings include cones, clasps, hooks/eyes, earring backs, bolo backs, pin backs, tiger tail, and fox tail. Commercially strung pieces will not be accepted.
- Commercially-made items – t-shirts, mugs, printed items – are not permissible unless they are the artist’s original design.
- Both traditionally-fired and kiln-fired pottery is accepted, but kiln-fired work must be labeled. Slip cast and commercial green ware will not be accepted.

The focus of the Awards of Excellence is to select and award the best example of art for each division. All winners are awarded cash prizes except for honorable mentions. The following list includes titles of awards and their definitions.

Award Categories & Definitions

Special Awards

Best in Show- Given to the work of art that is the most exceptional entry in terms of skill, creativity, and execution. This may be given to any category of art, but must be given to a first place piece.

MNA Spirit Award- Presented to the work of art that best embodies the Museum of Northern Arizona and represents dedication to its mission*. This may not be the most technical or intricate piece, and may be from any category.

*Mission Statement: The mission of the Museum of Northern Arizona is to inspire a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau through collecting, studying, interpreting, and preserving the region’s natural and cultural heritage.

General Awards

First Place- Given to a piece in each category that is the most exceptional as determined by the judges.

Second Place- Given to a piece in each category that is a runner up to the First Place piece.

Honorable Mentions- Up to 2 may be given per category, and are given in recognition of exceptional craftsmanship. Judges may choose to not award any honorable mentions if they deem none of the work to be fit for this category.

Category Guidelines

Jewelry: Jewelry must be handmade of natural materials and must comply with the applicable federal and state regulations regarding natural materials. Organic, stone, and clearly identified non-plated metal (e.g., gold or silver) materials are allowed. Acceptable commercial findings include pearls and glass beads, cones, clasps, hooks/eyes, earring backs, bolo backs, pin backs, tiger tail, and fox tail. Commercially strung pieces will not be accepted. Artists may enter one piece from a matched set individually or as a matched set.

Pottery: All handmade traditional and contemporary pottery forms are allowed. Kiln-fired and double-fired pottery should be disclosed as such. Pottery with commercial materials such as glazes and temper should also be disclosed. Slip molds, greenware, non-Indian, and commercial pottery are not allowed.

Sculpture: This category includes all hand-wrought materials, such as stone, metal, ceramic, wood, and cloth. Wood carvings should be of the tribal tradition of the carver. Artists should disclose types of wood used in carvings. Cast resins, cast miniatures, and commercially manufactured stands are not allowed.

Textiles, Traditional Weaving: Weavings may be done on vertical or horizontal looms. Items may include rugs or clothing such as sashes, belts or vests. Finger weaving, knitting, crochet, twined plaiting and embroidery are acceptable techniques. Commercially made items, manufactured or non-Indian made die-struck metal buttons or conchos, plastic beads or buttons are not allowed.

Fashion: This category includes cultural attire (woven or sewn), ceremonial clothing sets (including belts and sashes) Individual items; for example: belts, pouches, purses, shoes, scarves, sashes, leggings, kilts, cinches and other horse gear. Work may be woven, crocheted, felted, knitted, or sewn.

Basketry: Baskets should be made of plant materials of the tribal traditions of the artist. Basket materials should be processed by the artist. Items from kits or commercially manufactured items are not allowed.

2-D Fine Art: Examples of entries include: paintings, drawings, mixed media, and cut paper. Pieces should be framed, wired, and display-ready, however, pieces without

proper matting and framing may still be considered for awards. Photographed and hand-pulled lithographs and serigraphs, in signed editions of no more than 50. Certificates of authenticity from the printer are recommended. Items made through photomechanical reproduction, including posters, note cards, and t-shirts are not allowed.

Photography: Accepted photography techniques for this category are customary metallic photography, as well as alternative processes such as platinum, palladium, carbon and digital techniques such as giclee, light jet, and iris. Editions of no more than 50, each numbered and signed. Framing of the work is required for prints.

Cultural/Folk Arts: This category may include a variety of traditional, culturally-based works. Examples include but are not limited to: figurative objects, musical instruments, beadwork and functional objects such as bows and arrows, furniture, and shields.

Katsina Doll Carving: Traditional: This category includes dolls carved from cottonwood root and decorated in the tradition of the artist's tribe. (Hopi Festival only)

Katsina Doll Carving: Contemporary: This category will include dolls created with non-traditional techniques such as electric tools. Dolls may be decorated with modern styles and materials. (Hopi Festival only)

Fetish Carving: This category includes carvings made from stone and traditional materials. (Zuni Festival only)

Young Adult: this category is comprised of various work from artists between the ages of 13 and 19.

Youth: This category includes art from developing artists 12 years and younger.

For more information, contact the Public Program office at 928.774.5211, ext. 217, or email Amelia George at ageorge@musnaz.org