

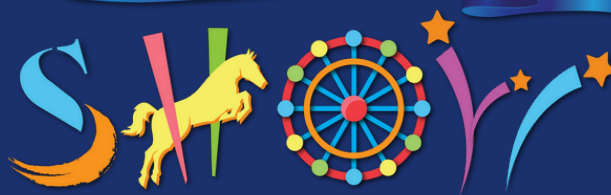
ART & PHOTOGRAPHY SCHEDULE 2026

20 - 22 February, 2026



ROYAL CANBERRA

20-22 February 2026



The Royal Canberra Show is proudly presented by



Royal National Capital
Agricultural Society



Royal National Capital Agricultural Society

RNCAS Contact Details

RNCAS Telephone: (02) 6241 2478

RNCAS Email: admin@rncas.org.au

RNCAS Website: www.rncas.org.au

Chairperson: Toni Rolls

Chief Executive Officer: Adelina La Vita

Art and Photography Section Head: Kathryn MacDonald 0476 934 833

Facebook: Royal Canberra Show

Craft Website: www.canberrashow.org.au/art

Craft Email: admin@rncas.org.au



The Art and Photography Competition theme for 2026 is **Under the Sea**

Entries to be submitted online at <https://entries.rncas.org.au>

The Royal National Capital Agricultural Society sincerely appreciates the valued support of
Sponsors and Stewards.

Art and Photography Competition

Located in Pavilion C (Coorong Pavilion) at Exhibition Park in Canberra (Showgrounds).

Friday 20 & Saturday 21 February 2026:

8.30am – 8.00pm

Sunday 22 February 2026:

8.30am - 6.00pm



A MESSAGE FROM KATE - ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION HEAD

It is with immense excitement and pride that I welcome you to the 2026 Art and Photography Competition at the Royal Canberra Show. After the amazing display of talent from the 2025 Canberra Show Art and Photography Competition, we are thrilled to once again bring back this vibrant celebration to our community.

This year's competition promises to be an inspiring journey, showcasing the incredible talent and imagination of artists and photographers from across the region. Once again, we will be featuring a diverse array of artwork and photography that reflects the beauty, emotion, and stories of our world. From seasoned professionals to budding creatives, we are privileged to witness such exceptional artistry that adds colour and depth to our Show.

Included in our competition is a disability section for all ages. Fostering and inspiring an inclusive compilation of inspiring and beautiful pieces of art and photography from across the community.

This year we are hoping to attract local and regional Aboriginal artists and photographers. Our 2026 competition aims to be rich in cultural diversity, whilst celebrating and keeping alive the traditions and culture of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal art.

We are looking forward to art from all age groups including; Under 12's, Youth- 12+ and Adults 18 +. We have created open classes that will make for a beautiful display in the Pavillion. We also hope to inspire artists with this year's theme, "Under the Sea".

Our aim is not only to celebrate your talent but also to foster a space where creativity thrives, and connections are made. Whether you are participating or simply enjoying the exhibition, I encourage you to take in every detail, every story, and every perspective these works represent.

To all our entrants, thank you for sharing your passion and creativity with us. Your contributions will make the Art and Photography Competition a cherished highlight of the Royal Canberra Show, and on which will be a feature for years to come.

Best of luck to all participants and may this year's exhibition inspire and captivate us all.

Warm regards,



Kathryn MacDonald
Art and Photography Section Head



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ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION ENTRY PROCESS

1. Read Conditions of Entry (page 4) and Special Conditions of Entry for each Art and Photography Sub Section. Please also read the new Identification of Entry Categories on page 8.
2. Log on, create a profile and enter your details and exhibits at the following link <https://entries.rncas.org.au>. Online entries must be completed and received by the RNCAS Office with the Entry Fees by midnight Saturday 31 January 2026.
3. All exhibits must be framed in a suitable surrounding frame/mount (Except side painted stretched canvases) and ready to hang with the actual picture framing string.
4. All canvases need to be neat and painted on the sides and strung properly ready to hang
5. If you have difficulties paying online please contact the RNCAS Office on (02) 6241 2478
6. As soon as possible after entries close you will be sent your Exhibitor Details Letter and your Exhibit Identification Tags by email. You will need to attach these to your artworks/photos.
7. **Regularly check your Inbox, Spam/ Junk folders during the week after the closing date.**
8. Check that the information on your Exhibitor Details Letter and Exhibit Identification Tags is correct. If it is not correct, contact Section Head (see point 4 for contact info)
9. **If you have NOT received your Exhibitor Details Letter and Exhibit Identification Tags by 10 February 2026, contact the office on 02 6241 2478 or email admin@rncas.org.au.**
10. Attach each Exhibit Id Tag to the front of each relevant exhibit (or as specified).
11. **Delivery of Exhibits (also bring your Exhibitor Details Letter):**
 - a. **either** in person to the Coorong Pavilion EPIC between **9.30 am and 12.30 pm** on Sunday 15 February 2026; **OR**
 - b. by post to CEO (Art and Photography Section), RNCAS, PO Box 124, MITCHELL ACT 2911 to reach the RNCAS Office no later than COB Friday 13 February 2025. **IF POSTING AND WISH TO SEND EXHIBITS PRIOR TO RECEIVING LETTER AND TAGS PLEASE EMAIL admin@rncas.org.au for instructions.**
 - c. **NOTE:** Art and Photography Competition Section Head must be contacted for alternative delivery arrangements.
12. **Collection of Exhibits (You MUST bring your Exhibitor Details Letter with you as proof of ownership):**
 - a. **either** in person at the Coorong Pavilion EPIC between **8am and 10am** on Monday 23 February 2026 (strictly NO ADMITTANCE to Coorong Pavilion by exhibitors before 8am); **OR**
 - b. by a person nominated by the Exhibitor. Please leave a signed note with the Chief Steward when delivering your exhibits stating the name of the person who will be collecting on your behalf. This person must bring along the Exhibitor Details Letter to be able to collect the exhibits, **OR**
 - c. exhibits sent by post **must include another self-addressed, paid return satchel** - the exhibit will be posted back to the Exhibitor in the supplied satchel, unless other arrangements have been made with Art Competition Section Head; **OR**
 - d. for those exhibitors living outside the Canberra/Queanbeyan area, exhibits can be collected on Sunday 22 February 2026 between 6.30pm & 7:30pm **ONLY if Sunday collection has been requested on the Entry.**
 - e. exhibits not collected will be returned to the RNCAS Office. The RNCAS will not be responsible for exhibits not collected by 4.30 pm Friday 27 February 2026 unless other arrangements are made.
 - f. the Exhibitor Details Letter will be kept by the RNCAS as proof that the exhibitor has taken possession of their exhibit(s).
 - g. **NOTE:** The Art and Photography Section Head must be contacted for alternative collection arrangements. Still not sure? Contact the Art Section and Photography Head or RNCAS Office for advice.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY SCHEDULE 2026

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CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

APPLICATION FOR ENTRY:

An exhibitor is not required to be a member of the RNCAS, nor a resident of Australia to be eligible to enter the Art Competition

- Enter online at the following link <https://entries.rncas.org.au>

ENTRIES CLOSE:

- Entries close Midnight, Saturday 31 January 2026.
- Late Entries will not be accepted.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

- All exhibits must be completed after 31 January 2025.
- Exhibits judged at a previous Royal Canberra Show will not be accepted for competition.
- **A single painting/exhibit must not be larger than 1m x 1m and presented ready to hang.**
- **Photographs must be ready to hang and no larger than 41cm x 51cm, as measured by the inside of the mount/frame size determined by the width of the mount.**
- An exhibit cannot be entered in more than one class.
- Student Classes - **Date of birth must be attached to every student exhibit.**
- Entries cannot be transferred from one exhibitor to another.
- An exhibitor may enter more than one exhibit in the same class.
- The exhibitor's name, initials or identifying marks on an exhibit must be masked before delivery.
- Exhibits need to be in clean, unused condition.
- All work on an exhibit is to be the total work of the exhibitor (framing exempt)
- Exhibits that have been partially or fully completed in Class/Seminar or similar must have acknowledgement attached.
- Exhibits that are original designs should have an acknowledgement attached.
- Exhibits that are copies or adaptations **must** have an acknowledgement of the original artist attached or be accompanied by an illustration.
- Exhibitors are welcome to provide additional information relating to techniques, construction and materials used.
- The RNCAS reserves the right to transfer an exhibit to a more appropriate class or sub section, or to divide classes or combine classes according to the number of entries received.
- The RNCAS reserves the right to withhold any exhibit from being displayed.
- All exhibit identification tags are to be attached firmly – clear tape as appropriate
- All exhibits must adhere to the special conditions of entry listed at the beginning of each sub-section.
- **Failure to comply with the above conditions & the special conditions of entry for each sub-section may result in your exhibit being disqualified.**

SALE OF EXHIBITS:

The Exhibitor may sell their exhibits. This **must** be stated when filling out entry details online, together with the selling price. The RNCAS retains a commission of **20%** on all sales.

JUDGING: (*Judging is NOT open to the public*)

Damaged or soiled exhibits will only be accepted at the judge's discretion.

The judge's decision is final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

Judging will take place on Monday 16 February 2026.

RNCAS BY-LAWS:

By entering, all Exhibitors accept that they are bound by the RNCAS Exhibition By-Laws as listed at the back of this schedule.

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ENTRY FEES

ADULT: \$10 each entry

DISCOUNT FOR OVER 65 YEARS, CONCESSION & STUDENTS: \$8 for each entry in any class of Expo.

PRIZES AND RIBBONS

Categories	Prizes
Section – Art and Photography	Rosettes for – Champion of Champions and Reserve Champion of Champions
Sub Section – Watercolour, Oil, Indigenous etc.	Rosettes - Overall Champion and Overall Reserve Champion Prize Card for Overall Champion and Overall Reserve Champion
Division – Theme Challenge, Child up to 12 years, Youth 12 – 18 years, Adult 18+ years – beginner, Adult 18+ years - Advanced	Ribbon – Champion and Reserve Champion and Champion and Reserve Champion for Best Exhibit in Student Divisions
Classes – exhibit categories	Prize Cards for - 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , Highly Commended and Encouragement Award

The Overall Champion exhibits from each Sub Section are judged to select the Art and Photography Competition Champion of Champions and the Art and Photography Competition Reserve Champion of Champions on the basis of aesthetic appeal and design.

Note: Prizes/awards for many of the classes are made available by our valued sponsors.

DEFINITIONS

Section: Art and Photography Section

Sub-Section: Art – Under the Sea Theme (This is open to all mediums of art, including watercolour, acrylic, calligraphy, collage, drawing charcoal, graphite, pen mixed media, oil, pastel and other).

Art – People with disability - (This is open to all mediums of art, including watercolour, acrylic, calligraphy, collage, drawing charcoal, graphite, pen mixed media, oil, pastel and other).

Aboriginal Art – Traditional and Contemporary.

Art – Other (This is open to all mediums of art, including watercolour, acrylic, calligraphy, collage, drawing charcoal, graphite, pen mixed media, oil, pastel and other).

Photography – Under the Sea Theme.

Photography – People with disability.

Photography - Aboriginal – Traditional and Contemporary.

Photography – Other

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Note: Disabilities Sub-Section - These classes are only for people whose disability physically or intellectually challenges their performance to produce their exhibit. Along with their Entry Form, first-time exhibitors must provide a letter, signed by a Medical Practitioner, stating their disability. First-time exhibitors who do not provide written evidence of their disability by the time of delivery will have their exhibits transferred to the appropriate sub-section for judging. Attach Date of Birth if 18 years and under as of 31 January 2025. This sub-section is for non-professionals only.

Aboriginal Art - To protect Aboriginal Culture and Art, you will need to provide/show an Aboriginality Form to enter when delivering your entry.

DEFINITIONS OF PLACINGS

1st: Exhibit judged as best in a class.

2nd: Exhibit judged as second best in a class.

3rd: Exhibit judged as third-best in a class.

Highly Commended: Exhibit judged to warrant commendation in a class.

Encouragement Award: Awarded to Student exhibits as encouragement in a class.

Champion: Exhibit judged as best in a division.

Reserve Champion: Exhibit judged as second best in a division.

Overall Champion: Exhibit judged as best in a sub-section.

Reserve Overall Champion: Exhibit judged as second best in a sub-section.

Art Competition Champion of Champions: Exhibit judged best in the Art and Photography Competition.

Art Competition Reserve Champion of Champions: Exhibit judged second best in the Art and Photography Competition.

IDENTIFICATION OF ENTRY CATEGORIES

Adult 18 + years – Beginner Exhibitors with less than 3 years of experience.

Adult 18 + years – Advanced Exhibitors with more than 3 years of experience

Youth 12 – 18 years as at 31 January 2025 (DOB to be attached).

CHILD up to 12 years as at 31 January 2026 (DOB to be attached).

ART - CLASSES

ART - UNDER THE SEA CHALLENGE

Figurative (human or animal forms, any medium, including mixed media)

FIGURATIVE - Figurative (human or animal forms, any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 1 Child up to 12 years
- Class 2 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 3 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 4 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

STILL LIFE - (any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 5 Child up to 12 years
- Class 6 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 7 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 8 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

LANDSCAPE/ WATERSCAPE (any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 9 Child up to 12 years
- Class 10 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 11 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 12 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

ABSTRACT (any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 13 Child up to 12 years
- Class 14 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 15 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 16 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

ART PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Figurative (human or animal forms, any medium, including mixed media)

FIGURATIVE - Figurative (human or animal forms, any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 17 Child up to 12 years
- Class 18 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 19 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 20 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

STILL LIFE - (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 21 Child up to 12 years
- Class 22 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 23 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 24 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

LANDSCAPE/ WATERSCAPE (any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 25 Child up to 12 years
- Class 26 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 27 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 28 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

ABSTRACT (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 29 Child up to 12 years
 - Class 30 Youth 12 - 18 years
 - Class 31 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
 - Class 32 Adult 18 + years - Advanced
-



ABORIGINAL ART

To protect Aboriginal Culture and Art, could you please answer the following questions as part of your entry:

1. Who are your mob?
2. Where are you from?
3. From what Nation do you draw your ancestral roots?
4. Do you have an Aboriginality form? Yes or No

TRADITIONAL - ABORIGINAL ART

Class 33	Child up to 12 years
Class 34	Youth 12 - 18 years
Class 35	Adult 18 + years - Beginner
Class 36	Adult 18 + years - Advanced

CONTEMPORARY -ABORIGINAL ART

Class 37	Child up to 12 years
Class 38	Youth 12 - 18 years
Class 39	Adult 18 + years - Beginner
Class 40	Adult 18 + years - Advanced

ART - OTHER

FIGURATIVE - Figurative (human or animal forms, any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 41 Child up to 12 years
- Class 42 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 43 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 44 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

STILL LIFE - (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 45 Child up to 12 years
- Class 46 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 47 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 48 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

LANDSCAPE/ WATERSCAPE (any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 49 Child up to 12 years
- Class 50 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 51 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 52 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

ABSTRACT (any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 53 Child up to 12 years
- Class 54 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 55 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 56 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

CALIGRAPHY

- Class 57 Child up to 12 years
- Class 58 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 59 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 60 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

PHOTOGRAPHY - CLASSES

PHOTOGRAPHY - UNDER THE SEA CHALLENGE

FIGURATIVE - Figurative (human or animal forms, any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 61 Child up to 12 years
- Class 62 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 63 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 64 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

STILL LIFE - (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 65 Child up to 12 years
- Class 66 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 67 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 68 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

LANDSCAPE/ WATERSCAPE (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 69 Child up to 12 years
- Class 70 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 71 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 72 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

ABSTRACT (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 73 Child up to 12 years
 - Class 74 Youth 12 - 18 years
 - Class 75 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
 - Class 76 Adult 18 + years - Advanced
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PHOTOGRAPHY - OTHER

FIGURATIVE - Figurative (human or animal forms, any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 77 Child up to 12 years
- Class 78 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 79 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 80 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

STILL LIFE - (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 81 Child up to 12 years
- Class 82 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 83 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 84 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

LANDSCAPE/ WATERSCAPE (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 85 Child up to 12 years
- Class 86 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 87 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 88 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

ABSTRACT (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 89 Child up to 12 years
 - Class 90 Youth 12 - 18 years
 - Class 91 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
 - Class 92 Adult 18 + years - Advanced
-



PHOTOGRAPHY - ABORIGINAL

TRADITIONAL - ABORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Class 93	Child up to 12 years
Class 94	Youth 12 - 18 years
Class 95	Adult 18 + years - Beginner
Class 96	Adult 18 + years - Advanced

CONTEMPORARY -ABORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Class 97	Child up to 12 years
Class 98	Youth 12 - 18 years
Class 99	Adult 18 + years - Beginner
Class 100	Adult 18 + years - Advanced

PHOTOGRAPHY - PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

FIGURATIVE - Figurative (human or animal forms, any medium, including mixed media)

- Class 101 Child up to 12 years
- Class 102 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 103 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 104 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

STILL LIFE - (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 105 Child up to 12 years
- Class 106 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 107 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 108 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

LANDSCAPE/ WATERSCAPE (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 109 Child up to 12 years
- Class 110 Youth 12 - 18 years
- Class 111 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
- Class 112 Adult 18 + years - Advanced

ABSTRACT (any medium, including mixed media).

- Class 113 Child up to 12 years
 - Class 114 Youth 12 - 18 years
 - Class 115 Adult 18 + years - Beginner
 - Class 116 Adult 18 + years - Advanced
-

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