



2025 STANDARDS PER CLASSIFICATION

Classification III – Paintings, Drawings, Graphics, and Photography Standards

Judges in this Classification will be evaluating design, composition, form, techniques, and use of material, as well as the ability to combine these elements.

In 2023, we implemented the “Boundary” Category within each division. This Category is designed to give jurors and Class Managers more options when looking at pieces that do not necessarily conform to already existing Categories but use the same techniques and materials.

The Boundary category should be used only where work does not conform to any listed category (Juror and Class Manager documentation required).

1. Allowed

a. Materials

b. Techniques and Tools

i. Print-making

1. Must be hand pulled
2. Must be numbered and signed
3. Edition sizes must be 25 or less
4. To be considered for judging print must be one of the initial series

ii. Photography

1. Must be numbered and signed
2. Edition sizes must be 25 or less
3. Must have been printed in the previous three years
4. Giclee, iris, or other digital photographic reproduction techniques allowed in the Photography and Computer Graphics Divisions only

iii. Sandpainting

1. Natural earth materials
 - a. Natural color sand
 - b. Stone ground into sand
2. Non-natural earth materials
 - a. Color improved sand
 - b. Dyed sand
- iv. Fine Art Digital Prints
 1. Must be on archival foundation paper or canvas
 2. Must be set to high resolution of 300 dots per inch (DPI) minimum
 3. Must be numbered and signed
 4. Edition sizes must be 25 or less
 5. Must disclose that it is a Print
 6. Digital photographic reproduction techniques allowed in the Photography and Computer Graphics Divisions only

2. Not Allowed

a. Materials

- i. Wet paintings will not be accepted for judging
- ii. No use of white out or magic marker in Sandpainting

b. Techniques and Tools

- i. Photomechanical reproduction (to make copy-print). Examples include but are not limited to:
 1. Note cards
 2. Postcards
 3. Posters
 4. T-Shirts
 5. Stickers

Division Descriptions

Division A: Representational Painting/Graphics. A realistic/stylized form using traditional Native subject matter that reflects the regional and cultural style of tribal groups in a flat naturalistic manner with minimal use of perspective, depth, shading and light. Can include miniatures.

Division B: Abstract Painting/Graphics. An abstracted painting is one in which the subject is simplified or reduced to its essential forms, but where the viewer can 'interpret' it as having been derived from something 'real'.

Division C: Sandpaintings. Sandpainting is the art of pouring colored sands, powdered pigments from minerals or crystals, and pigments from other natural or synthetic sources onto a surface to make a fixed, or unfixed sand painting.

Division D: Print-making. Print-making is the process of making artworks by printing, normally on paper. Printmaking normally covers only the process of creating prints with an element of originality, rather than just being a photographic reproduction of a painting. Except in the case of monotyping, the process is capable of producing multiples of the same piece, which is called a '*print*'. Each piece produced is not a copy but considered an original since it is not a reproduction of another work of art and is technically (more correctly) known as an '*impression*'. Printmaking (other than monotyping) is not chosen only for its ability to produce multiple impressions, but rather for the unique qualities that each of the printmaking processes lends itself to.

Division E: Photography. Accepted photography techniques for this Division are metallic photography, as well as, alternative processes such as platinum, palladium, carbon and digital techniques such as giclee, light jet, and iris.

Division F: Computer Generated Graphics. are graphics created using computers and, more generally, the representation and manipulation of image data by a computer with help from specialized software and hardware.

Important Reminders:

1. All work must be display-ready and wired for hanging on a single nail, including all matted, framed, or shrink-wrapped items.
2. Canvases with painted edges must have plastic or cardboard protective covers. SWAIA will not provide these items.

3. Greater consideration will be given to traditional works that use natural earth materials.

**Classification III – Paintings, Drawings, Graphics, and Photography
Judging Divisions and Categories**

Division	Category
A: Representational Painting/Graphics (Realistic/stylized) - including miniatures	1101: Oil; including oil sticks and oil pastels
	1102: Acrylic
	1103: Gouache/Opaque and Transparent Watercolor; “Studio Style”
	1104: Pencil, Pen/Ink, Scratch Board, Chalk, Charcoal
	1105: Mixed Media 2D art
	1106: Ledger Art, Any Medium
	1107: Boundary (“Gray area art”, Classification transfer possible)
B: Abstract & Contemporary Painting	1201: Oil; including oil sticks and oil pastels
	1202: Acrylic
	1203: Gouache/Opaque and Transparent Watercolor
	1204: Pencil, Pen/Ink, Scratch Board, Chalk, Charcoal

	1205: Mixed Media 2D Art
	1206: Boundary (“Gray area art”, Classification transfer possible)
C: Sandpainting	1301: Traditional
	1302: Contemporary
	1303: Boundary (“Gray area art”, Classification transfer possible)
D: Print-making	1401: Lithographs, Woodcuts, Etchings, and Other Intaglio Techniques
	1402: Monoprints and Monotypes
	1403: Serigraph/Silkscreen
	1405: Boundary (“Gray area art”, Classification transfer possible)
E: Photography	1501: Black and White or Continuous Tone; (Light exposed metallic prints)
	1502: Color; (Light exposed metallic prints)
	1503: Alternative Process; (Hand crafted, manually applied or transferred emulsions or dyes)
	1504: Digital: (Computer generated giclee, light jet, and iris media)
	1505: Boundary (“Gray area art”, Classification transfer possible)

F: Computer Generated Graphics

1601: Digitally Altered Primary Sources and printed (e.g. altered digitized photographs)

1602: 100% Digitally Created Work Printed in 2D (paper, canvas, etc.)

1603: Boundary (“Gray area art”, Classification transfer possible)