

Unique by Nature
Juried Art Competition and Exhibition, April 2024
Awards Reception, April 6, 2024, 6pm-8pm
McKinney Performing Arts Center

Unique by Nature is hosted by the McKinney Performing Arts Center, City of McKinney. Sponsors include citizen leaders dedicated to the growth of the arts in McKinney. The competition has two categories: Large Works Purchase Prize Competition, and Non-Purchase Prize Competition and Juried Exhibition. This year the Large Works Purchase Prize submissions will be juried, and finalists judged, by Daisha Board of Daisha Board Gallery, Dallas, Texas. Daisha Board will also jury and judge the Non-Purchase Prize Competition and Juried Exhibition.

Unique by Nature Juried Art Competition and Exhibition – Deadlines and Dates

Category A: Large Works Purchase Prize Competition

Category B: Non-Purchase Prize Competition and Juried Exhibition

Deadlines for Category A: Large Works Purchase Prize Competition

- **Friday, March 15- Online entry submission deadline at 7 p.m.**
- Wednesday, March 20 - Notification of Finalists for Purchase Prize Competition
- Wednesday, March 27 - Deadline to deliver Finalists for Purchase Prize Competition

Deadline for Category B: Non-Purchase Prize Competition and Juried Exhibition

Saturday, March 30- In-Person entry submission 9:30am-6pm, MPAC Lower Gallery

Unique by Nature Art Competition Awards Reception and Exhibition:

Saturday, April 6, 6pm-8pm

- **Exhibition on display April 6 - April 27**
- Sunday, April 28 - Artists retrieve work

Cash and purchase prizes will be distributed as follows:

The Large Works Purchase Prize of \$6,000 will be awarded to the work of art chosen by Daisha Board to become part of the permanent public art collection of the McKinney Performing Arts Center. Submission fees become the prize pool for the Non-Purchase Prize category, with awards of \$500 each given to prize-winners chosen by Daisha Board.

Unique by Nature is open to professional and emerging artists who are legal residents of the United States and at some point in time have been residents, or are currently residents, of Texas. Entrants must be at least 17 years of age by May 2024.

Submission Requirements (by category):

Category A: Large Works Purchase Prize Competition

Works to be considered for the Purchase Prize must be 2D and 36” or more in at least one dimension. By Friday, March 15th, 7pm, artists will submit online jpgs of up to three different works for consideration, as well as a brief bio, artist statement, and their Curriculum Vitae. Finalists will be notified by March 20th, art work to be delivered by March 27th. Fee: \$30. (plus \$1.50 processing fee). Please use the following link to apply.

<https://mckinneypac.wufoo.com/forms/rq07ag31hgfvfp/>

Category B: Non-Purchase Prize Competition and Juried Exhibition

For the Non-Purchase Prize Competition, all two- and three-dimensional media are allowed. Works will be juried in person, and evaluated on the basis of original and engaging artistic vision, effective use of media and professionalism of presentation.

Art work must be submitted in person on Saturday, March 30 (9:30am-6pm), Lower Level, McKinney Performing Arts Center, downtown McKinney. Volunteers of the Arts and Music Guild process the art submissions and fees. Fee: \$25 for up to two works of art. Payment may be made through the Arts and Music Guild website, www.artsandmusicguild.org (add \$1.50 processing fee) or at time of submission (cash, checks payable to "Arts and Music Guild"). **Fees support the competition and prize pool, thus insuring the acquisition of artwork by regional artists for the permanent art collection.** Artwork submission forms are available online at www.artsandmusicguild.com and at drop-off on Saturday, March 30.

Category B: Size Limitations and Presentation Requirements:

In consideration of our desire to balance the presentation of each work in the limited space of the MPAC's Gallery, the following size restrictions apply:

2D works must not exceed 72" vertically and 48" horizontally (including frame, if framed). 3D works that hang must not exceed 25lbs, 72" vertically, and 30" horizontally. 3D works that are free-standing should not exceed 72" vertically and 30" horizontally, and the artist is encouraged to provide pedestal or display stand with artwork if the piece is not designed to stand on the floor. Extremely fragile 3D pieces must be easily movable, as display options are limited.

If the artwork is on paper, the work **must** either be mounted or framed with glazing; i.e., glass or Plexiglas. Loose paper works cannot be accepted.

All 2-D works submitted should be **suitably framed** as needed, or be gallery wrapped canvases (minimum 1" wide, preferably 1.5" heavy duty stretcher frames).

Whether framed or unframed, 2D or 3D, all hanging works should have D-rings and be wired. Multi-unit works must be engineered so that they can be hung as a single unit.

Category B: Art Exhibit, Sales, and Pick Up:

The juried exhibit is open through Saturday, April 27. ALL art work **MUST** be picked up on Sunday, April 28 (1-5pm).

Artwork not juried into the exhibit will be shown in the "Salon des Refuses" (very fun, very beautiful) during the opening reception (evening of April 6) and **MUST** be picked up by 8:30pm on April 6.

Artists are welcome to price their work for sale during the exhibit. Sales will be handled by MPAC, which will cut the artist a check for the sales price, minus a 25% commission. All commissions collected by MPAC will be used to purchase additional art work or to fund future competitions.

While MPAC staff and the Arts and Music Guild volunteers will use care in handling the work, none are responsible for losses or damages. As such, artists may want to consider insuring their work based on its value.

Questions may be submitted to Jakia Brunell, Marketing and Development, jbrunell@mckinneytexas.org or Annie Royer, Director, Arts and Music Guild, artsandmusicguild@gmail.com.