

THE JURY ART PRIZE 2026

PRIZE GUIDELINES

The Jury Art Prize aims to provide a platform for artists to tell their authentic stories of their regional WA communities to Australia and across the globe.

SUMMARY

1. WHO CAN ENTRE
2. ARTWORK BRIEF
3. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION
4. DATES AND DEADLINES
5. PRIZES, SELECTION CRITERIA AND JUDGES
6. SHIPPING YOUR WORK AND RETURNING
7. FAQ's

1. WHO CAN ENTRE

The Jury Art Prize is open to all visual artists practising in all mediums residing in regional Western Australia including:

- Gascoyne, Goldfields – Esperance;
- Great Southern;
- Kimberley;
- Mid-West;
- Peel;
- Pilbara;
- Southwest;
- Wheatbelt.

2. ARTWORK BRIEF

The submitted Artwork must be:

- Undertaken and completed between April 2025 and April 2026;
- Not have been sold or exhibited elsewhere;
- Be available for display and purchase for the duration of the exhibition;
- Must be original and presented by living artist/s;
- Not exceed 150cm in either length or width;
- Wall hung works must not exceed 8kg, and must be framed with D rings;
- Sculptural works must not exceed 15kg.

The Jury Art Prize reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject work that is not found suitable for publication or that does not meet criteria.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

The Jury Art Prize only accepts online submissions.

- All artworks must be presented as a digital file, 300dpi no larger than 2MB.
- Each submission can only consist of one artwork. Artists are welcome to make any number of submissions; each submission will incur a fee.
- Only one artwork can be selected from each artist for the prize.
- **Each online submission must include the following:**
 1. **Artist Contact Information**
 2. **Submission Details**
 3. Note: that Retail Price must include GST and 40% Gallery Commission.
 4. **Artwork Details**
 5. Note: that the selection of finalists will be judged using images of your work that you have uploaded in your submission. Please ensure that only clear, high-quality images are submitted.
 6. **Artwork Size**

7. Artist Information & Online Information

8. Submission Fee

9. Each submission will incur a fee of AUD\$33 (inc. GST).

For further information, contact: thejuryartprize@thejunctionco.com.au

4. DATES AND DEADLINES

Here is a list of all important dates and deadlines (all by 4PM AWST).

- 15/12/25 – Entries Open
- 10/04/26 – Entries Close
- 17/04/26 – Finalists Announced
- 26/04/26 – Information Session (Letter of Acceptance, Q&A Opportunity)
- 01/05/26 – Letter of Acceptance Due
- 29/05/26 – Artworks to be delivered to Drop Off Points (if applicable)
- 05/06/26 – All Artworks MUST be received at the Courthouse Gallery+Studio by end of day
- 04/07/26 – Exhibition Opening Event and Winner Announcements
- 22/08/26 – The Jury Prize (People's Choice) Winner Announcement
- 21/08/26 – Exhibition Close
- 29/08/26 – All artwork MUST be collected from the Courthouse Gallery+Studio

5. PRIZES AND SELECTION CRITERIA AND JUDGES

The Jury Art Prize celebrates artistic excellence across the Pilbara and wider region, recognising artists who demonstrate strong conceptual development, originality, and technical skill. An independent panel of arts industry professionals evaluates submissions on creativity, presentation, and overall impact.

Acquisitive Prize Structure

From 2026 onward, **all seven Jury Art Prize categories will be acquisitive.** This means the winning artwork in each category will be purchased by the corresponding prize sponsor, and the prize amount will constitute the full acquisition price.

By entering, artists acknowledge that:

- If selected as a category winner, ownership of their artwork will transfer to the relevant sponsor.

- Their artwork must be available for sale and not pre-sold or otherwise committed.
- The sale price aligns with the prize value.

Publication and promotion of finalists on all The Junction Co. and Courthouse Gallery+Studio platforms.

Finalist artworks will be featured in the following ways:

- Online from The Junction Co. Website
- Online from The Junction Co. Website
- Artwork spotlight on social media campaigns
- Groups press releases to media audiences
- Feature on Perth CBD's Yagan Square Tower between July and August 2026
- The artwork may be used for advertising and promotional purposes by The Junction Co. And Courthouse Gallery+Studio, including but not limited to annual reports, event promotions, etc.

PRIZE CATAGORIES (DETAILED)

1. Judges Prize (\$10,000)

The Judge's Prize is awarded to the most outstanding artwork by a contemporary artist living in regional WA. This prize acknowledges the artists exceptional work and is endorsed by arts industry professionals. The Judges Prize winning artwork must meet the following criteria:

- Display exceptional technical ability in the artists chosen medium
- Captivate the viewer
- Demonstrate the artists ability to think and communicate in a conceptual way
- Exhibit the artists ability to position their artwork in a broad artistic context

2. Jury Prize (\$5,000)

The Jury Prize is the people's choice award and will be awarded to the artwork that receives the most votes through the online voting platform on The Junction Co.'s website.

3. Patron Prize (\$5,000) – Sponsored by The Town of Port Hedland

The Patron Award will be awarded to a Hedland resident and will provide a fund of \$5000 to support the ongoing development of the winner's art practice. This prize fund is sponsored by The Town of Port Hedland. The Patron Prize winning artist must meet the following criteria:

- Be a permanent resident in the Town of Port Hedland
- Demonstrate the development of a unique and/or distinctive artistic style
- Describe a connection too, or interpretation of place in their artwork – either literally or symbolically
- Demonstrate a desire to develop and grow their artistic practice.

4. Kathy Donnelly Award (\$5,000)

The Kathy Donnelley Award is an encouragement award for an emerging WA regional artist. This award pays homage to the late Kathy Donnelley, one of the founding members of the original Courthouse Gallery and Hedland Art Award. The Kathy Donnelley Award winning artwork must meet the following criteria:

- Display well-developed technique in the artists chosen medium
- Present the artists chosen subject in a considered and creative way
- Demonstrate the artists ability capture the viewer through colour, material, form or concept.

5. Sculpture Prize (\$5,000)

The Sculpture Prize recognizes excellence in three-dimensional art forms. Open to artists living in regional WA, this award encourages artists to explore form, material, and space. The Sculpture Prize winning artwork must meet the following criteria:

- Display a high level of technical skill and craftsmanship

- Creatively engage with the medium and subject matter
- Demonstrate the artist's ability to shape materials into forms that capture attention
- Show a unique or thought-provoking approach to spatial composition.

6. Portrait Prize (\$5,000)

The Portrait Prize is awarded to the best portrait work by a regional WA artist. This award encourages artists to delve into the complexities of capturing the essence, likeness, and personality of their subject through innovative techniques. The Portrait Prize winning artwork must meet the following criteria:

- Display strong technical ability in portraying the subject
- Creatively interpret the subject's character, emotions, or essence
- Demonstrate the artist's ability to communicate personality or story through the portrait
- Engage the viewer with compelling use of color, light, or expression.

7. Highly Commended Prize (\$5,000)

The Highly Commended Prize is awarded to a regional WA artist whose work, while not a category winner, demonstrates significant artistic merit. This award acknowledges the artist's creativity, skill, and contribution to the exhibition. The Highly Commended Prize-winning artwork must meet the following criteria:

- Display a high level of technical proficiency
- Show originality and creativity in the artist's subject and execution
- Engage the viewer with the artist's approach to medium and concept

Pre-Selection

All entries will be reviewed by one staff member of the Courthouse Gallery+Studio and two Independent Panellists.

Finalists will be selected to be exhibited at the Courthouse Gallery+Studio for judging.

Finalists announced

Finalists will be notified through email. Full list of finalists of The Jury Art Prize 2026 will be announced on our website and social media.

Finalist works to be delivered to the Courthouse Gallery+Studio and installed by the gallery team.

Prize Judging

Judges will meet and judge all installed finalist works at the gallery. The three judges will pick the winners for the Judges Prize, Kathy Donnelly Encouragement Prize and the Patron Prize.

Announcement of Winners + Voting

Winners will be announced on July 04, 2026, at the official opening. Public voting for The Jury Prize (People's Choice) will commence. The winner of The Jury Prize (People's Choice) will be revealed on August 22, 2026

The Jury Art Prize partners annually with esteemed industry professionals for its Judging panel. Once the judges are finalised, we will announce them on our platforms and provide additional information about each of the Judges.

6. SHIPPING OF ARTWORKS AND RETURNS

Finalist Artworks must be delivered to:

Courthouse Gallery+Studio
16 Edgar Street
Port Hedland, WA 6721

Artworks must be received by the Courthouse Gallery+Studio **BY 05 June 2026, 4:00pm (AWST)**

- The artist is responsible for the cost of transporting the artwork to and from the Gallery.
- The Junction Co. assumes no responsibility for artworks damaged during transit to or from the Courthouse Gallery+Studio.
- All artwork delivered to the gallery or designated drop-off locations must be securely wrapped in bubble-wrap and placed in cardboard boxes (full boxes only), with proper labelling.
- If artwork is to be delivered by courier, the provided delivery times must be adhered to, and all delivery charges must be covered by the artist. It is the artist's responsibility to ensure and check that the artwork is received and collected.

ARTWORK DROP OFF LOCATIONS 2026

There are four artworks drop off locations available: delivered by the 29 May 2026

- Margaret River, WA 6285
- Broome, WA 6725
- Perth, WA 6000
- Geraldton, WA 6530

The Junction Co. will arrange and cover the cost of transporting artworks to the Gallery from the designated Drop-Off location.

Finalists will receive an online form containing available dates and times for drop-off.

All artwork delivered to the gallery or drop-off locations must be securely wrapped in bubble-wrap and placed in cardboard boxes (full boxes only). Please ensure that the packaging is properly labelled.

RETURN OF WORKS

At the end of the exhibition period, unsold works may be considered for the Courthouse Gallery+Studio stockroom collection.

Artists are responsible for both the cost and arrangement of shipping for the return of their unsold artwork by the 2nd of August. At the close of the exhibition, if a finalist fails to remove an artwork from the Gallery within six weeks of the exhibition's conclusion, at which time the artwork shall be forfeited and become the property of The Junction Co., giving it the right to sell or otherwise dispose of the artwork.

Artists who used the drop-off location will need to arrange and cover the cost of shipping their artwork back to their own places. Drop-off locations are not available for the return of artworks.

The Junction Co. will only facilitate the shipping of artworks that are sold during the exhibition

No responsibility will be taken for artworks damaged while in transit to or from the Courthouse Gallery+Studio.

7. FAQ's

How will I be notified if I'm selected as a Finalist?

Finalists will be notified by email if they are selected as a finalist in The Jury Art Prize.

What is the Patron Award Fund?

The Patron Award Fund is a Town of Port Hedland supported arts fund that can be awarded to an artist residing in Port Hedland. This fund is awarded to assist Hedland based artists with the development of their arts practice, to learn a new skill that will contribute to their arts practice, support the creation of new artwork, or carry out professional development in the area of artist practice.

I only want to be in the running for the Jury Prize, is this possible?

Unfortunately, no. Once you have entered the prize your work will be open for judging in all categories. The only exception is the Patron Award, which can only be awarded to an artist's residing in Port Hedland.

My work includes a digital screen and requires power, can I still submit?

Yes, we accept all media entries. However please note that if your work is selected all components of the work that support it, eg. screen, sound etc. must be included with a clear installation instruction.

How many times can I enter?

Artists are invited to enter the prize as many times as they wish, keeping in mind each entry includes a \$33.00 submission fee, however only **one** artwork can be selected from each artist for the prize.

Do I need to pay for shipping my artwork to Port Hedland?

Yes, all selected finalists are required to cover the cost of shipping their pieces to either the Gallery or designated Drop-Off locations. If you choose to drop off your artwork at one of the designated locations, The Junction Co. will cover the cost of transporting it to the Gallery.

What happens with my work after the exhibition?

If your artwork does not sell during the exhibition, we will contact you to discuss the return of your work or its inclusion in the Courthouse Gallery+Studio Stockroom. Please note that artists are responsible for arranging the transport of their own artwork.

Still looking for answers? Please email thejuryartprize@thejunctionco.com.au with your question.