National Competition

The National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival provides Veterans with an opportunity to gain recognition for their many creative talents!
Local first place entries in each category will have the opportunity to compete in the 2021 National Creative Arts Competition.

While the National winners are formally invited to attend the National Festival, any and all Veterans are welcome to attend the weeklong celebration of learning, friendship, and celebration of the healing power of the creative arts, which culminates in an art exhibit, creative writers meet-and-greet, and live stage show.

Art workshops, writing seminars, and excursions throughout the host city are also offered to participants during their week at the festival.

More information about the National competition can be found on The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/NVCAF/

Enter the Local Competition

If you would like to participate, please complete the appropriate entry form (Creative Writing Division or Art Division) and return to the GIVA, Attention: Alicia Wicht, no later than January 29, 2021.

Entry forms can be picked up at any clerk station or Whole Health building 6 or on the GIVA website https://www.nebraska.va.gov/locations/Grand_Island.asp

Entry forms and all artwork/creative writing pieces are due by January 29, 2021.

All entries will be displayed February 9, 2021 from 8a.m. - 6p.m.
(2nd Floor Rec Hall)

Creative Arts Competition Contact:
Alicia Wicht, Whole Health
308-395-3404
alicia.wicht@va.gov
**Competition Rules**

**To qualify for entry, the artist must be enrolled at a VA medical facility or Outpatient Clinic BEFORE entering the local competition.**

- All art must have been created after April 1, 2020, except for Military Combat Experience entries.
- The VA facility staff and the judges have the right to change an entry’s category as needed.
- Working GUNS, KNIVES or other WEAPONS will not be accepted due to VA regulations banning these items from VA facilities.
- A Veteran can enter up to three ART categories, but ONLY one entry per category per Veteran.
- It is recommended that hanging art is mounted, framed, and ready for display. Use plexiglass instead of glass.

**Responsibility-Liability**

All possible care will be taken in handling objects submitted for judging. However, the VA facility cannot be responsible for any LOSS or DAMAGE.

Participants will be required to give written consent allowing the production and use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA for competition and publicity purposes.

No entries may be removed by the artists during the run of the judging.

**Competition Judging**

A panel of judges from the local creative arts community will use the following criteria:

- Applied Arts and Kit Categories:
  » Creativity, skill, originality and total presentation
- Creative Writing Categories:
  » Creative content, message clarity, use of language, originality, and overall strength.

**Art Categories**

**Kit Categories**

- Leather
- Wood Building
- Fabric Art
- Paint by Number
- String Art
- Suncatcher
- Transfer / Engraving Art Kits

**Creative Writing**

- Poetry
- Short Story
- Personal Experience Short

**Applied Art Categories**

- Acrylic Painting
- Watercolor
- Carving
- Pastels
- Mosaic
- Knotting
- Glasswork
- Colored drawing
- Color Photography
- Glazed Ceramics
- Leather Stamping
- Crocheting
- Jewelry (no beads)
- Black & White Photography
- Painted or Stained Ceramics
- Fiber Arts (original design)
- Scroll Saw / Fretwork

**Special Art Categories**

**Special Recognition**

A description of the physical and/or mental health challenges the Veteran overcame in order to accomplish the creation of the Veteran’s art is required to qualify for this category. The description, not to exceed 225 words can be written by the Veteran or the Veteran’s VA staff contact person, nurse, physician or practitioner.

**Military Combat Experience**

The Veteran must have experienced combat duty during World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, Gulf War, or current combat operations. The artwork must relate to the Veteran’s personal experience in that war or conflict. A statement explaining how the art relates to the Veteran’s wartime experience, composed by the Veteran and/or his VA staff contact person of 25 to 225 words MUST be included with each entry. The medium used must be a fine art or applied art medium.

**Digital Art**

Art that was created using digital technology in the process of its creation. The work is created entirely with the computer and includes 2D graphics as well as 3D graphics. All original entries in the Digital Art categories must be printed, mounted and framed. It is REQUIRED that the software programs used be listed in the “mediums/techniques used” section of the entry form. ANIMATION AND VIDEOS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

Please see entry packets for category descriptions, rules and regulations.

They can also be found on the GIVA website:

https://www.nebraska.va.gov/locations/Grand_Island.asp