

## CPSA Explore This! Online Exhibition

**Explore This!** is a juried show which **requires** artwork to be predominantly colored pencil and include other medium(s). Awards include the **\$2,000 Best of Show** and EXPY award with cash and product awards of about \$8,000 for other winners.

### Artist Eligibility

Open to living artists 18 years or older, regardless of geographic location. Members and non-members receive equal consideration and treatment.

### Entries

- Artists may submit up to two unique works created on or after January 1, 2024 and not previously displayed in any CPSA exhibition.
- The juror may select **only one** entry by a given artist.

### Entry Fee

- **CPSA member:** \$30 for up to two works
- **Non-CPSA member:** \$35 for up to two works

### Acceptance

- A list of accepted artists will be posted at the CPSA website ([www.cpsa.org](http://www.cpsa.org)) by Friday, January 15, 2027.
- CPSA uses the email address on your submitted entry form for notifications about Explore This!
- For CPSA members, having work appear in the show counts toward CPX signature status and merit levels.



# 2027 Prospectus

### Important Dates

**Entries Open:** September 15, 2026

**Entries Close:** November 16, 2026

**Selected Artists Announced:**

January 15, 2027

**Show Opens and Awards Announced:**

February 1, 2027

### Juror: Nadiah Rivera Fella, Ph.D



Nadiah Rivera Fella holds a B.A. in art history from Oberlin College in Ohio and completed a Ph.D. at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York with a dissertation on using photography to capture stories of migration in the US-Mexico borderlands from the 1970s to the present. Fella, who specializes in Latin American and global contemporary art, taught courses on curatorial practice and modern and contemporary art at the City University of New York. She has been instrumental in integrating several Latin American works into American galleries.

Her early positions were with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin College. Later at the Newark Museum of Art, Fella curated the traveling exhibition *Wendy Red Star: A Scratch on the Earth* and served as the primary author and editor for the accompanying catalogue. Since joining the Cleveland Museum of Art in 2019, she has curated *Rose B. Simpson: Strata* (2024), *Picturing the Border* (2024), *New Histories, New Futures* (2021) and the exhibition by Firelei Báez for FRONT International (2022).

Fella's publications include *Picturing the Border* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2024); *Rose B. Simpson: Strata* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2024), *Picturing Motherhood Now* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2021); "Graciela Iturbide's *Cholo/a* Series: Images of Cross-Border Identities," in the journal *History of Photography* (2019); and contributions to *Aperture* and *Art in America* magazines.

# Artwork Specifications



## Execution

- Work must have been completed **on or after** January 1, 2024.
- Artwork must be **predominantly** colored pencil and **must** include some other medium, technique, surface, or element such as:
  - Ink, watercolor, pastel, acrylics, oil paint, markers, exposed graphite
  - Collage or montage
  - Artist-prepared surface
  - Three-dimensional surface

## Ideation

*Artwork must be solely the **original concept and design** of the submitting artist.*

## Not Allowed

- Work copied from any copyrighted or published materials.
- Work in which the primary subject has been copied directly from someone else's photograph, even with permission. This includes images from online free-reference sites. Such photos may be used **only** for incidental compositional elements, not as the main focus of the artwork.
- Work created using AI-generated compositions or images for reference.
- **Reproductions** such as prints or giclees of artwork.
- Any **printed** or **digitally produced image** as part of the artwork
- **Alteration** of artwork after submission of entry.
- Collaborative works executed by more than one artist, including classroom projects and exercises. You may, however, submit artwork of your own design which was worked on in a class or critiqued by others, as long as you are the primary creative force.

## Additional Requirements:

<https://cpsa.org/exhibitions/exhibition-requirements/>

## Pastiche Requirements

Artwork created as a pastiche (parody or imitation of another artwork) is allowed, provided the artwork is sufficiently altered so as to make the parody obvious and the artwork parodied is not copyrighted.

## Disqualification

CPSA reserves the right to disqualify a selected entry at any time if it is determined that it fails to meet ideation, specifications or execution.

## Penalties include:

- Immediate removal of disqualified work from show, not counted for signature and merit honors, and omitted from CPSA website and promotional items.
- Return by the artist of any money or goods awarded as prizes.
- Forfeiture of any CPSA signature status and merit awards.

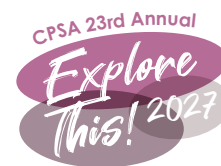
## Permission and Copyright

By submitting an entry, the Artist grants permission for CPSA to use the accepted image in its news magazine, *To The Point*, on its website at [cpsa.org](https://cpsa.org), for CPSA brochures and promotional materials, and publicity about CPSA. Every effort will be made to maintain quality true to the submitted image, recognizing that the print or electronic medium may affect how the viewer receives the image. The Artist hereby certifies that he or she holds the copyright for this material and the copyright remains with said Artist. CPSA will display a notice that material must not be "downloaded" or copied, but will not be held responsible if artwork is copied. The Artist also certifies that the work submitted is original and does not infringe on any existing copyright. If artwork includes a recognizable image of a person, the Artist certifies that a model release has been obtained.

# Prepare and Submit Your Entry

Submit your entry between Sept. 15 and Nov. 16, 2026

[showsubmit.com/open-calls](https://showsubmit.com/open-calls)



1. Prepare JPG/JPEG images of your artwork. Images must be **at least 1920px** on the longer side and no more than 30MB in size.

**Number of Images:** You may enter up to two works: one JPG image of a 2-dimensional work or two images of 3-dimensional work.

2. Log into your ShowSubmit account. If you don't have an account, you can easily set one up for free.

3. Find the [CPSA 2027 Explore This! 23 exhibition](#) and click **Create your entry**.

4. Click **Add Your First Work** to submit an image.

5. Click **Select Image** and navigate to the file on your computer. Once uploaded, complete the entry form.

**NOTE:** If you are absolutely unable to make an electronic payment, contact [exhibitions@cpsa.org](mailto:exhibitions@cpsa.org) to make other arrangements.

## Image and Filename Specifications

- **File Format:** Submit original, high-quality JPEG image files. Other formats (e.g., PNG, TIFF) are not accepted.
- **Crop Your Image:** Ensure only the artwork itself is visible in the image. Do not show any visible matting, frames, or background distractions.
- **Orientation:** Make sure your image is oriented correctly (right side up) so that the artwork appears in its intended viewing direction.
- **Image Size:** You do not need to resize your image files before uploading. The system will automatically resize them. Smaller images cannot be enlarged to meet the requirements, so ensure your images are high resolution before uploading.
- **File Names:** You do not need to rename your files before uploading them. The system will handle any file naming requirements.
- **File Size:** There is a 30MB maximum file size limit. Larger image files will take longer to upload and process.

## Additional Entry Information

- You will pay for your entry by credit or debit card using the ShowSubmit secure checkout system.
- After your entry is submitted and paid for, you may log back in to review your entry, edit artist and image information, and add or substitute images up until the entry deadline (**November 16, 2026**.)
- **Entry fees are not refundable and must be submitted and paid by the entry deadline.**
- **Entries cannot be accepted or changed after the entry deadline. Incomplete entries will be disqualified.**