

MICHIGAN TAXIDERMIST ASSOCIATION

8th Annual State Wildlife Art Competition & Convention

March 18 - 22, 2020

Devos Place, Grand Rapids, Michigan



Michigan Taxidermist Association - Wildlife Art Rules

All entries must have main subject matter to include some form of wild mammal, wild fish, wild bird or wild reptile.

Levels of Competition - DIVISIONS

Open:

All Artists may enter and anyone that has won two Ribbons in the Intermediate level must advance to this level. Suggested: Artists that are considered Professional, sell work as an income or teach techniques for a wage.

Intermediate:

Open to Artists who have not received two ribbons in the intermediate level or won a First Second or Third Best of Show as an Intermediate. Suggested: Artists that have competed previously or sell their artwork for profit should enter at this level or higher.

Novice:

Open to Artists who have not received two ribbons in the novice level or won a First Second or Third Best of Show as a Novice. An Artist new to competing with little or no formal training.

Junior: Artist 17 years of age or under.

The intention is to have beginning competitors start at the novice level and work up to open. However, you may advance yourself at any time without winning in a lower category but once you win in a higher category you may not go back down a level.

*****Categories are for whole or partial wildlife creations. The MTA will expand the following categories as the competition grows*****

Art CATEGORIES:

Photography:

Black and White, Color, Sepia, Hand Tinted Other.
Photographs may be printed on matte, semi-gloss or glossy paper.

Paintings:

Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Other.

Drawings:

Graphite, Ink, Charcoal, Chalk Pastels, Oil Pastels, Colored Pencil, Other.

Alternative Mediums:

Etchings, Printing, Collage, Mixed Medium, Other

3D:

Three dimensional, Sculpture, Carving

Judging

The following criteria will be used for all levels of competition and, unless specifically restricted elsewhere, in all divisions. All four criteria are important because they overlap and build on each other. In order for a piece to reach its fullest potential, it must succeed in all four areas simultaneously.

A. **Craftsmanship** refers to the technical skills involved in drawing, carving, painting and/or finishing techniques. The execution of craftsmanship will be looked for in the subject, any habitat, accessories, and the base itself, if there should be one. Quality craftsmanship should be consistent throughout the entire piece.

B. **Accuracy** involves the correctness of a piece from a scientific perspective. Size, shape, proportions, value, color, etc., are the concepts important here. Anything accompanying the subject must be given the same scrutiny. Accuracy involves the natural history of the whole piece, all of its components, and the appropriateness of those components together.

C. **Essence of the Species** involves capturing the “gist” or “gestalt” of a species. It involves a thorough knowledge of one’s subject and the ability to capture an attitude in art. Capturing the essence of your subject and giving it the spark that brings it alive.

D. **Artistry** of a piece refers to its design and composition. This is where presentation, innovation, and creativity all come into play. There should be beauty in the concept apart from the beauty of the carving itself. Line, form, content, color, mass, and movement should all be working together to create an integrated whole.

Awards:

A. Each division will award a First, Second and Third place award ribbon in each category that has entries. Divisions have single ribbon awards.

B. The State Champion wildlife artwork will be selected from all entries in the competition. All first place pieces from each division will be grouped together and a single entry will be selected as the State Champion Best of Show. There will be a First, Second & Third Place Best of Show.

State Champion Best of Show

1st

2nd

3rd

***Other sponsored Awards may become available**

CRITERIA FOR 2D ART

Entry Conditions for Artwork:

Note: We will not allow any 2-D artists to submit work that has been previously shown in an MTA event.

Framed 2-D Artwork:

- All wall-hung work must be properly matted and/or framed, with wire for hanging at least 2" from the top edge of the frame. Gallery wrapped canvasses are permitted.
- **NO** smudged mats, wet canvasses, clip or poster frames, or damaged frames are allowed.
- A label made by the artist must be put on the back of the work to include: artist name, three letter initials, medium and division.
- Check-in includes a quality check of each artist's work.
- Table top and floor easels are encouraged

Unframed 2-D Artwork:

- All unframed 2-D work will be displayed on a show curtain or appropriate means.
- Each piece must be properly matted, and should be wrapped neatly in shrink-wrap, acetate, clear plastic, or plastic print sleeves. Saran wrap or Ziploc type bags *will not* be accepted.
- A label made by the artist must be affixed to the back of the packaging with: artist name, three letter initials, medium, and division.
- All reproductions (prints or color copies) of your work must be labeled as such.
- Only one image of each work may be displayed in the show at a time.
- Only two pieces of work by an artist will be shown at any one time.
- Table top and floor easels are encouraged

Space Limitations:

Large Two-Dimensional Framed Hanging Pieces taking 24 inches or more of horizontal wall space.

- Each participant may enter up to two 2-D works of 24 inches width. The MTA can only guarantee that one large 2-D work will be hung. Artists may need to supply means of displaying large pieces. We cannot accommodate very large or strangely shaped items for hanging without prior knowledge.

Selling of Work

At the show, items may be placed up for sale to the general public. The MTA would be paid ten percent (10%) of the selling price.

Membership and registration must be paid in order to attend convention seminars.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES – Wildlife Art

1. Registration for Artwork will be from 9:00AM- 9:00PM on March 18th 2020.
2. The competing Artist shall complete the established registration process for the show at hand on or before 9:00 pm of the day of registration. An Artist may have an item entered into the show by an authorized proxy.
3. If the competitor has any questions about the appropriate wildlife art category to identify for their entry, it shall be discussed and decided with the competition chairman during the registration time period.
4. The judges and the competition chairman have the authority to change an entry's category if during the judging period an issue surfaces and it is determined that a more correct category assignment would be reasonable, objective, fair to the competitors, and a benefit to the whole competitive show. An attempt to provide notice to the competitor will be made at that time.
5. The judges, at the time of their judging, shall make the final determination of placement of all entries in any/all categories.
6. All entries into the Wildlife Art competition must have been created, constructed, and finished by the competitor or competitors if a joint effort.
7. The judges reserve the right to award or withhold ribbons based upon the quality of artwork in each category. Ribbons may include first, second, and third.
8. All entries must remain for the duration of the show (5 p.m. Sunday) **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
9. Artwork is entered at owner's risk. Every precaution will be made to secure the entries. The MTA will not assume responsibility for loss due to damage, theft, fire and/or natural causes.
10. All name plates indicating the artist name and/or business name must be covered by the competitor before carving is entered.
11. No pictures showing the artist and/or the business shall be allowed in the judging area until judging is complete.
12. **No names or pictures are allowed on the originality sheets.**
13. No business cards are to be placed on or around competition pieces on the convention floor at any time during the show. This ensures the safety of all competitors mounts from being damaged or stolen by ensuring the general public is not encouraged to reach across the security barriers that are in place.
14. Two blue ribbons in Novice or Intermediate divisions in any category or combination of categories bump you up to the next highest division the following year.
15. At the conclusion of the show, please line up behind the curtain at the West end of the showroom to be escorted to your entry by an MTA Board member.
16. You must show your I.D. receipt tag upon leaving the show at 5 p.m. Sunday with your mount. **DO NOT LOOSE THIS RECEIPT!**
17. **NO ONE** will be allowed in the judging area until judging is complete. **ONLY** people designated by competition chairman will be allowed in judging area during judging.
18. The judges must break all ties for trophies or major awards before the judging is completed.
19. You may **NOT** enter a single category in two different divisions (Example – you may not enter a carving in both the Novice and Intermediate divisions or Intermediate and Open etc.
20. You **MUST** have received a blue ribbon to be eligible to receive a Wildlife Art Best State Champion.
21. After the judging is complete, the judges **ARE NOT** allowed to change any ribbons. Do not ask them to do so. If you have a problem, please contact the competition chairperson. He/she will use their discretion to settle any disputes and their ruling is final!
22. Sportsmanship-The MTA has gone to great lengths to obtain the most experienced and qualified judges in the world. All judge's decisions will be final. Competitors should conduct themselves in a professional manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct could result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all MTA awards as well as being barred from future competitions.

Michigan Taxidermist Association Wildlife Art Registration Form 2020

**Show Registration fee is \$50.00 if you are attending any seminars or entering the supplier's area you must be registered for the show.*

**Membership to the MTA also includes admission to the Sports Show.*

Make check payable to: **Michigan Taxidermist Association**
And send to: **Kathy Proctor, 11784 Winfield Rd., Jonesville, Michigan 49250**
kathy@jpriverbendtaxidermy.com

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State & Zip _____ Phone: _____
I certify that I have created and finished my entries unassisted, and I agree to enter all pieces at my own risk.
Signature: _____

(ALL ARTWORK MUST BE IN PLACE BY 9:00 P.M. WED)

PHOTOGRAPHY Category \$15.00 each piece / \$5.00 for Juniors

Circle One: Juniors Novice Intermediate Open

Category/Description _____

of entries in Division: _____ x \$15.00 (\$5.00 for Juniors)

PAINTINGS Category \$15.00 each piece / \$5.00-Juniors

Circle One: Juniors Novice Intermediate Open

Category/Description _____

of entries in Division: _____ x \$15.00 (\$5.00 for Juniors)

DRAWINGS Category \$15.00 each piece / \$5.00-Juniors

Circle One: Juniors Novice Intermediate Open

Category/Description _____

of entries in Division: _____ x \$15.00 (\$5.00 for Juniors)

Alternative Mediums Category \$15.00 each piece / \$5.00-Juniors

Circle One: Juniors Novice Intermediate Open

Category/Description _____

of entries in Division: _____ x \$15.00 (\$5.00 for Juniors)

3-D Category \$15.00 each piece / \$5.00-Juniors

Circle One: Juniors Novice Intermediate Open

Category/Description _____

of entries in Division: _____ x \$15.00 (\$5.00 for Juniors)

TOTAL COSTS DUE

Show Registration Fee.....\$50.00....Optional..... \$ _____

Art Piece Fees due \$ _____

Banquet Dinner Tickets:

Number of Tickets _____ x \$30.00..... \$ _____

Number of Youth Tickets _____ x \$10.00 for 12 & Under..... \$ _____

Friday Night Buffet Tickets:

Number of Adult Tickets _____ x \$25.00..... \$ _____

Number of Youth Tickets _____ x \$10.00 for 12 & Under..... \$ _____

MTA Membership Dues (if not already renewed) \$40.00..... \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed..... \$ _____