

YoungArts 2024 Application Requirements

Photography

Please be sure you follow all requirements related to your application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements listed below may make your application ineligible for an award.

Application Requirements

Portfolio must include a **total of ten (10) images**:

- **Two sets of five (5) images from TWO unified series.** The series of photographs should be unified by concept, theme, aesthetics, and/or subject matter.

OR

- **Ten (10) images from ONE unified series.** We only recommend one series of 10 if it's an in depth, long-term project that reflects your capacity as a photographer.
- **A written statement** (1 page, double spaced) that includes the following:

- **Paragraph 1:** Briefly describe your connection to photography as a means of expression, as well as your point of view as an artist.
- **Paragraph 2:** Most importantly, describe to the panel on your series of work. This is an opportunity to explain the work in your portfolio; why you made these decisions and their relationship to you as an artist.

Note: If you are selected as an award winner with distinction and attend National YoungArts Week, you will be part of an exhibition of works based on your portfolio submission. The curator will be making their selections for the exhibition from your submitted portfolio. If you are shooting film, this means you will need to have your negatives professionally scanned. If you are shooting digital, you will need to provide us with a 300 dpi file at the maximum dimension you envision for exhibition.

Media Submission Guidelines

- All forms of photography are accepted including documentary, conceptual, portrait, environment, color, black and white, alternative processes, digital, and mixed media.
- It is strongly recommended that applicants submit personal work, not part of a class assignment.
- Do not submit slideshows, PowerPoint presentations, animations, movies, audio with images or embed images into Microsoft Word.
- You are only as strong as your weakest image! Make sure all of your photographs are consistent both technically and creatively.
- Pay attention to the sequence of the images, use consistent editing techniques, and consider each images impact on the larger group.
- Minimize use of digital manipulation. A complicated effect using Photoshop will not impress the judges.
- Do not place your name, a watermark, or any identifying information in or on your media submissions.

Technical Specifications

You are responsible for the quality of the submission, and for adherence to guidelines. Incomplete or improperly formatted submissions will not be considered for an award.

Formatting Images:

- Image File Size: Minimum 4 MB/Maximum 8 MB.
- Image File Format: JPEG (JPG)
- Image File Dimensions: 2400 pixels on the shortest side
- Image File Resolution: 72 dpi

Uploading:

- Each image must be saved as a JPG file and uploaded separately, 10 images in total. Files should be named Image 1, Image 2, etc.
- In the Title field of the application, enter title of the piece (If untitled, can be named Piece 1, Piece 2, etc.).
- Do not title your files with your name or any other identifying information.
- In the Medium field, enter the medium used (for example digital, film, Polaroid, alternative process, etc.), and in the Year Created, enter the year completed.
- Under "Ideal Print Size", please select the size at which you would ideally like the work to be printed. If digital photography is your medium, please note the largest dimension size*, and ensure you are submitting a file that will reproduce at that size.
 - *This is referring to resolution. Note the largest size at which you want your photo to be printed, but make sure the file can be printed at high resolution.

Intellectual Property and Copyright Requirements

- All submitted work must be wholly original and may not infringe upon the copyright or other intellectual property or other legal or moral rights of any other person or entity.
- If your work has been submitted and selected for other competitions, you are responsible for getting permission to submit to YoungArts.

Reviewers and Panelists are looking for:

The portfolio should demonstrate original thinking and a willingness to take creative risks. While it is expected that you will consult with your teachers in the selection of portfolio material, you are urged to submit work you feel best represents your personal creative interests from work ideally done outside of class.

- Work that:
 - reflects personal vision
 - illustrates a distinctive point of view throughout a series of images
 - connects photographer and subject
 - reflects intentional, not accidental, use of photographic tools
 - demonstrates the photographer's sensitivity to subject matter
 - is technically proficient, including proper exposure, focus, contrast, and appropriate color balance

Note: Photographs that are emblematic of conventions of commercial photography (including studio headshots, images created for stock photography, and fashion shoots) are discouraged.