

APS POSTGRADUATE ART PRIZE 2026

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By entering the APS Postgraduate Art Prize 2026, entrants agree to the following Terms and Conditions.

Eligibility

- 1.1 The competition is open exclusively to students currently enrolled in a postgraduate program at The University of Queensland (UQ) at the time of entry.
- 1.2 APS employees, members of the APS Board and Executive Committee, and any person directly involved in administering or judging the Art Prize are not eligible to enter.

Entry Limit

- 2.1 Each student may submit one entry only, including participation in a collaborative entry.
- 2.2 Entries must be submitted using the entrant's UQ student details and email address.

Theme 2026

- 3.1 The theme of the APS Postgraduate Art Prize 2026 is Nostalgia.
- 3.2 Entries should meaningfully engage with or respond to the theme. Interpretation of the theme is intentionally broad and may be personal, cultural, historical, conceptual or abstract.

Submission Period

- 4.1 Entries must be received within the submission period published by APS.
- 4.2 Late, incomplete or incorrectly submitted entries may not be considered.
- 4.3 APS may extend or amend the submission period where reasonably necessary.

Artwork Requirements

- 5.1 Entries must:
 - 5.1.1 be the entrant's original work;
 - 5.1.2 be created by the entrant, or entrants in the case of an eligible collaboration;
 - 5.1.3 be a still visual artwork capable of being displayed or reproduced for exhibition;
 - 5.1.4 be suitable for public display;
 - 5.1.5 comply with these Terms and Conditions.
- 5.2 Eligible formats may include painting, drawing, illustration, photography, digital art, printmaking, mixed media, textile art and other forms of visual art accepted by APS.
- 5.3 Video, animation, interactive works or submissions consisting primarily of links or QR codes are not eligible unless APS expressly approves otherwise.

Artificial Intelligence and Third-Party Material

- 6.1 Artworks must be substantially created by the entrant.
- 6.2 Fully or substantially AI-generated artwork is not eligible.
- 6.3 Entrants must not submit stock images, clip art or other third-party material as their own work.
- 6.4 APS may request information or evidence regarding how an artwork was created where necessary to verify its authenticity.

Collaborations

- 7.5 An artwork may be created collaboratively by a maximum of two currently enrolled UQ postgraduate students. Both students must satisfy the eligibility requirements and be identified when the entry is submitted.
- 7.6 A collaborative artwork constitutes the single permitted entry for each collaborator.
- 7.7 Any prize awarded to a collaborative entry will be awarded once per artwork, not individually to each collaborator. The collaborators are responsible for determining how any prize money is divided between them.



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Submission and Selection

- 8.1 Entrants must provide a suitable digital image or documentation of their artwork together with the information requested by APS.
- 8.2 APS may conduct an initial selection process to determine which entries proceed to finalist judging or exhibition.
- 8.3 Selection may be based on the submitted image, artist statement, response to the theme, suitability for exhibition and compliance with these Terms and Conditions.
- 8.4 Not every eligible submission is guaranteed to become a finalist or be exhibited.

Artist Statement

- 9.1 Entrants may be asked to provide a short artist statement describing their work and its relationship to the theme Nostalgia.
- 9.2 APS may make minor formatting, spelling or grammatical edits to artist statements for exhibition or publication purposes without materially changing their meaning.
- 9.3 Links, promotional material or unrelated content may be removed.

Authenticity Verification

- 10.1 APS may request reasonable evidence that an artwork is original and was created by the entrant.
- 10.2 This may include photographs of the artwork in progress, original files, source files or other information reasonably necessary to verify authorship.
- 10.3 Failure to provide requested verification may result in disqualification.

Judging

- 11.1 Eligible entries will be assessed according to criteria determined by APS, which may include:
 - 11.1.1 Interpretation of Nostalgia;
 - 11.1.2 Creativity and originality;
 - 11.1.3 Artistic execution;
 - 11.1.4 Strength of concept; and
 - 11.1.5 Overall impact.
- 11.2 APS may appoint independent judges or a judging panel.
- 11.3 Judges' decisions are final. Scores, deliberations and individual feedback will not ordinarily be released, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding judging outcomes.

Prizes

- 12.1 The following prizes will be awarded:
 - 12.1.1 Grand Prize — \$1,000
 - 12.1.2 Runner-Up — \$250
- 12.2 Prize money will be paid using a method determined by APS and may require the winner to provide reasonable information necessary to process payment.
- 12.3 If a winning entry is a collaboration, the stated prize amount applies to the artwork as a whole.

Announcement of Winners

- 13.1 Winners are scheduled to be announced at the APS Annual Postgraduate Ball on Saturday, 26 September 2026 at The Star Grand Brisbane.
- 13.2 Finalists may be invited to attend the event.
- 13.3 Attendance at the Ball is subject to the applicable event conditions and venue requirements.
- 13.4 APS may change the method, location or timing of the announcement if circumstances require.



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Communication

- 14.1 Entrants are responsible for monitoring the email address provided with their entry, including spam or junk folders.
- 14.2 Finalists may be required to respond to APS within a specified timeframe to confirm eligibility, provide additional materials or arrange exhibition of their artwork.
- 14.3 Failure to respond within the required timeframe may result in the entry being excluded from judging or exhibition.

Content Standards

- 15.1 APS may reject or remove an artwork where it reasonably considers the work:
 - 15.1.1 Unlawful;
 - 15.1.2 Discriminatory, threatening or harassing;
 - 15.1.3 Defamatory;
 - 15.1.4 Infringing of another person's intellectual property or privacy;
 - 15.1.5 Inappropriate for public exhibition in the circumstances; or
 - 15.1.6 Otherwise inconsistent with the purpose or reasonable standards of the competition.
- 15.2 The fact that an artwork addresses a controversial, political, social or challenging subject will not, by itself, make the artwork ineligible.

Copyright

- 16.1 Entrants retain copyright and ownership of their artwork.
- 16.2 By entering the competition, entrants grant APS a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive licence to photograph, reproduce, display and publish the submitted artwork for purposes connected with:
 - 16.2.1 The APS Postgraduate Art Prize;
 - 16.2.2 APS exhibitions and galleries;
 - 16.2.3 APS websites and social media;
 - 16.2.4 Promotion and reporting of APS activities;
 - 16.2.5 APS publications and annual reports; and
 - 16.2.6 Archival and historical purposes.
- 16.3 APS may crop, resize or make other reasonable formatting adjustments when reproducing an artwork but will not intentionally materially alter the artwork.
- 16.4 Where reasonably practicable, APS will attribute the artist when displaying or publishing their work.

Physical Exhibition

- 17.1 APS may invite selected finalists to provide their original physical artwork for display.
- 17.2 Selection as a finalist does not automatically guarantee that the original physical artwork will be displayed.
- 17.3 APS will provide selected entrants with instructions regarding delivery, installation and collection.
- 17.4 The physical artwork supplied must substantially correspond with the artwork represented in the entrant's original submission.



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Photography at the Exhibition and Awards

- 18.1 Entrants acknowledge that photography and video may occur during exhibitions and the APS Annual Postgraduate Ball.
- 18.2 Displayed artworks may appear incidentally or intentionally in photographs and video captured for APS communications, reporting, archival and promotional purposes.

Disqualification

- 19.1 APS may exclude an entry or withdraw a prize where it reasonably determines that:
 - 19.1.1 The entrant was not eligible;
 - 19.1.2 The artwork did not comply with the entry requirements;
 - 19.1.3 Information supplied by the entrant was false or misleading;
 - 19.1.4 The artwork infringes another person's rights;
 - 19.1.5 The entrant failed to provide requested authenticity verification;
 - 19.1.6 The entrant attempted to improperly influence the judging process; or
 - 19.1.7 These Terms and Conditions were otherwise materially breached.
- 19.2 Where a prize has already been awarded, APS may require its return if the winning entry is subsequently found to have been ineligible.

Changes or Cancellation

- 20.1 APS may reasonably modify, postpone, suspend or cancel the competition, exhibition or awards arrangements where circumstances outside its reasonable control make this necessary.
- 20.2 Where practicable, APS will communicate significant changes to affected entrants.

Privacy

- 21.1 Personal information collected through the competition will be used for administering the APS Postgraduate Art Prize, communicating with entrants, verifying eligibility, organising exhibitions, awarding prizes and related APS purposes.
- 21.2 APS will handle personal information in accordance with its applicable privacy obligations.

Acceptance of Terms

- 22.1 Submission of an entry constitutes acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.
- 22.2 Entrants are responsible for ensuring that the information supplied with their entry is complete and accurate.
Questions
- 22.3 For questions about eligibility, submissions, artwork requirements or exhibition arrangements, contact APS before the submission deadline.