

**VISUAL ARTS** includes many art forms that are visual in nature. Through combined elements like color, shape, and texture, visual artwork is not only pleasing to look at but also expresses an idea or thought. *Collections are not accepted.*



### **To Portray Your Original Artwork**

- **Consider the following accepted forms of visual arts:** Architecture (2D/3D), carpentry, ceramics, collages (combined non-photographic and/or photographic elements), digital art and graphics (drawings/paintings/illustration), crafts, design, dioramas, drawing, fiberwork, jewelry, kites, metal etching/punch work, mobiles, painting, printmaking, sculpture and wind chimes.
- **Avoid the following unacceptable forms of visual:** Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork are not accepted.
- **Show a clear relation to the theme** using art form, use of color, texture, shape, proportion etc. to show a clear relation to the theme.
- **Do Not** have artists full name showing on front of entry!

### **Image Quality Tips**

- **Sizing and quality:** Digital images should be at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution, so they are clear and visible to reviewers.
- **Take clear photos:** Make sure your photos are clear and simple. Avoid any extra blank space or distractions around the artwork.
- **Avoid reflections:** If your artwork has shiny surfaces, be mindful of reflections. Adjust the lighting or angle to minimize glare.
- **Fill the frame:** Try to fill the camera frame with your artwork, leaving only a small border around it. Don't use digital zoom because it lowers the image quality. Instead, move your camera closer.
- **Use diffused light:** Natural light on a cloudy day is best. If using artificial lights, place a white sheet between the lights and the artwork. Avoid using your camera's flash as it can change the colors and create shadows.
- **Photographing 2-D art:** Position the camera so it faces the artwork directly. The lens should be at the center of the artwork and not tilted. Ensure the lighting is even across the entire piece.
- **Photographing 3-D art:** Take photos from different angles to show all sides of the artwork. To show texture and depth, use a stronger light on one side to create slight shadows.

- **Take multiple shots:** Take several photos and check them as you go. Make small changes to the lighting or setup to get the best shots.

## DIGITAL TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital technology and/or software may not provide the primary design and/or concept, but can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry. Entries may not be exclusively created with generative tools (e.g., AI) and/or composed exclusively of elements generated or provided by the technology platform.

### Accepted:

- A sound library generated performance of student's original composed score.
- Use of audio editing platforms to mix, enhance or completely transform original audio.

### Not Accepted:

- Algorithmic composition techniques in music submissions.
- Use of templates, formulas, etc. provided by a platform/technology.

## Guidelines

- **Describe Use of Technology:** If digital technology is used, *entrants must use the "Additional Details" field to provide a brief description* of the tools and method used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).
- **Verify Prohibited Technology:** Check if your state PTA prohibits the use of any digital platforms and/or methods (i.e., artificial intelligence).

# Overall Entry Guidelines



These are basic guidelines that all Reflections entries must meet to be eligible on the national level. *Additional state and/or local program requirements may apply.*

Each entry must be new artwork inspired by the current year's theme are accepted.

- **Theme-Inspired:** Engage with the theme and create inspired artwork. This is critical to success in Reflections.
- **New Artwork:** Do not “recycle” artwork by submitting a piece created for other purposes (e.g., homework not related to Reflections; art used in another competition).

Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

- **Individual Originality:** Reflections is designed to encourage and recognize individual creativity, artistic assistance from friends, family and/or teachers is not allowed.
- **No Group Submissions:** Only one student will be awarded for each entry.
- **Artwork Details:** Titles or artist statements must be the student's own words and interpretations of the theme.
- **Creative Choices:** Decisions in the creative process must be made and/or directed by the student. If support is required, it should be limited and appropriate to the student's grade and needs.

Each entry must contain a title and an artist statement.

- **Word Count:** Artist's statement must include at least 10 words and not exceed 100 words.
- **Be Creative and Unique:** Each entry submitted in Reflections must have a unique title and artist statement specific to that submission. Learn more about crafting a title and artist statement in the section below.

Each entry using digital technology/software in creation process must consider the following:

- **Enhance:** Technology/software *may be used to* develop, enhance and/or present an entry.
- **Original Use:** Technology/software *may not be use to* provide the primary design and/or concept.

- **Use Description:** Entrants must use the “Additional Details” field on their entry form to briefly describe the tools and method used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).

