

Call to Artists

The Kouba Gallery in Bloomington, Minnesota, in partnership with ArtistryMN.org, invites you to submit your original artwork to the 2026 National Juried Art Show, held alongside the Izaak Walton League National Convention. Inspired by the League's mission to conserve our woods, waters, and wildlife while connecting more Americans to the outdoors, this show celebrates the intersection of art and nature.

The Kouba Gallery is a volunteer-led community of artists and conservationists, united in exploring the human connection to nature through creative expression. This national show is both a juried competition and a joyful tribute to the beauty of landscapes, the power of shared values, and the promise of our collective future.

Whether you're a long-time League member or newly inspired by our mission, we welcome your voice. Let your art reflect the Izaak Walton League's dedication to conserving, restoring, and promoting the sustainable enjoyment of our natural resources.

Categories

- **The Natural World and All Its Beauty:** From sweeping landscapes to intimate botanical details, this category invites work that honors the beauty of our natural world. Any medium is welcome.
- **The Hand of Man:** Conflict and Conservation: Explore the tension—and hope—between human activity and the environment. Submissions might portray urban-natural juxtapositions, infrastructure, rewilding, protest, or restoration. Any medium is welcome.
- **Youth Are Our Future:** A space for young members to express their passion, perspective, and purpose. This category is open in theme and medium to all Youth and Student IWLA members.
- **Our World in Motion:** This category celebrates digital media, showcasing time-based, interactive, and dynamic works that capture the movement and evolution of our ecosystems. From flowing rivers to changing skies, digital storytelling to animations—submit pieces that come to life over time or actively engage the viewer. Maximum duration: 5 minutes.

Please note: The Gallery is unable to accept full art installations for this show due to space limitations and the inability to assemble or install them on-site.

Key Dates

- Submission Deadline: 10:00 PM CT on June 1, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: June 10, 2026
- Artwork Delivery Deadline: June 1, 2026
- Exhibition Dates: July 2026 (during the National Convention)

Fee: There is no entry fee to participate.

Selected works will be showcased at the Confluence Gallery at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge during the Izaak Walton League National Convention in June 2026. A public art opening will take place during the Convention—open to attendees and the broader community, including potential buyers and partners.

Submission Requirements

- A high-resolution image or video of your artwork (see technical specs below), along with the category you are submitting to.
- A brief artist statement (maximum 250 words).
- A photo of you, the artist.
- Your local IWLA Chapter affiliation.
- A url link to an online photo gallery showcasing your recent work, if available.

Make sure you are satisfied with the information and images you have entered before submitting the application. This exact information will be used for the exhibition catalog, wall labels, and publicity materials if you are accepted into the exhibition.

Sales & Promotion

Artists are welcome to offer their work for sale, with no commissions taken by the Gallery or the League. All sales will be managed directly by the artist. If you choose to sell your piece, please ensure it is listed on your website and available for purchase.

To help promote your work, the Gallery will gladly share links provided by the artist to showcase more of your portfolio.

Rules, Requirements & Judging Criteria

Eligibility & Originality:

- All submissions must be the original work of the artist.
- Derivative works are permitted only if they are clearly transformative—not reproductions or decorative collages of existing material. Collage and assemblage must demonstrate original intent and composition.
- AI-generated images or elements are not permitted. Artists may use AI tools for post-production editing (e.g., color correction), but all visual content must be created by the artist.

Formats & Presentation:

- All works must be ready to hang, display, or install safely and without special rigging.
- Please note any special display requirements during submission.
- Motion/digital works must be under 5 minutes and viewable on standard equipment.

Digital Submission Requirements:

- 2D & 3D Art: JPG or PNG, 300 DPI, at least 2400px on the longest side, max 10MB.
 - Video/Interactive: MP4 preferred (MOV accepted), 1080p minimum, max 5 minutes, max 500MB.
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Jury & Award Process

Artists must submit their digital submissions by June 1, 2026, for consideration. The jury will review all submissions and select the artwork to be included in the exhibition. Artists will be notified of the jury's decisions by June 10, 2026. While we are unable to provide individualized feedback, all participants will receive a response.

During the exhibition, additional judging will take place to determine the award winners. Awards presented during the exhibition will include:

- **First Place**
- **Second Place**
- **Honorable Mentions**
- **Best in Show** - Chosen by Kouba Gallery

Additionally, Convention attendees and online participants will have the opportunity to vote for **People's Choice Awards** in each category.

Delivery of Artwork

- Shipped or hand-delivered artwork should arrive in Minnesota at the address provided upon acceptance by June 1, 2026.
 - Artwork should be picked up from the Confluence Gallery at the end of the National Convention by a Division member of your choosing. This arrangement must be made by July 10, 2026, and communicated with the Kouba Gallery unless return shipping has been pre-arranged (with costs covered by the artist).
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Insurance & Liability

All exhibited works must be self-insured by the artist during shipping or delivery. The Gallery carries only fire and liability insurance and cannot be held liable for any theft or damage to works of art.

Agreement & Release

By submitting artwork to the 2026 National Juried Art Show, the Artist confirms they have read and agree to all conditions outlined in this prospectus. The Artist grants permission to the Kouba Gallery, the Izaak Walton League, and ArtistryMN.org to use images of accepted artwork for publicity, educational, and archival purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, promotional materials, exhibition invitations, social media, and online platforms associated with the event.

The Artist also agrees to allow reproduction of their digital files and/or photographs of their artwork for use in the exhibition catalog, wall labels, and other promotional or educational materials. Selected works may be featured in marketing efforts, including the cover design of exhibition invitations or other materials.

The Artist acknowledges that all exhibited works must be self-insured during shipping, delivery, and the exhibition period. The Kouba Gallery and its representatives, employees, and volunteers are not liable for any loss, theft, or damage to the artwork while in their possession.

By submitting, the Artist releases and discharges the Kouba Gallery, the Izaak Walton League, ArtistryMN.org, and their representatives, employees, and volunteers from any and all claims related to the loss or damage of submitted artwork.

For questions regarding eligibility, formats, or logistics, please contact the Kouba Gallery Contest Committee.