



17th ANNUAL PATRICIA SITAR JURIED EXHIBITION

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Sunday, November 15, 2026

Sitar Arts Center invites artists to submit original artwork for the 17th Annual Patricia Sitar Juried Exhibition: "Tomorrow, Imagined."

For more than 25 years, Sitar Arts Center has been a cornerstone of Washington, DC's arts community, providing high-quality, affordable arts education for children, teens, and young adults from every Ward. By removing financial and cultural barriers, Sitar ensures that everyone—regardless of background—can access transformative arts experiences.

Established in 2010, this annual juried exhibition honors Sitar's namesake and strengthens the Center's commitment to building a creative community of learning and belonging. Open to artists at every stage of their careers, it especially offers a meaningful platform for those in the early phases of their artistic journey to share their work and connect with an audience that values the power of the arts to inspire and connect.

THEME: TOMORROW, IMAGINED

The future isn't something we just wait for—it's something we imagine, shape, and build every day. "Tomorrow, Imagined" invites artists to explore what's ahead: the hopes, questions, and possibilities that shape where we're headed as a community and a world.

There's no single way to approach this theme. Artists may draw on personal dreams, the past, community life and relationships, technology and innovation, the environment, or the impact they want to make. Some pieces might celebrate progress and optimism. Others might sit with uncertainty, loss, or the unknown. Still others might imagine entirely new ways of living, connecting, or seeing the world.

This isn't about predicting what will happen. It's about asking: *What future are we imagining—and what future are we helping to create?*

ELIGIBILITY

- Artists ages 16 and up residing in the United States. Artists must be at least 16 years of age by the date of their submission.

ACCEPTED MEDIA & SPECIFICATIONS

- **Two-dimensional (2D)**
 - 2D works cannot exceed 60" in any direction, including frame.
 - Works cannot exceed 30 lbs.
 - 2D work **MUST** be wired and able to be hung using a track and cable hanging system. Or, works must be able to be displayed with a table-top easel.
 - Cleats, sawtooth hangers, or any other hanging device requiring a nail in the wall are not acceptable hanging mechanisms
- **Three-dimensional (3D)**
 - 3D works cannot exceed 5'H x 3'W x 3'D.
 - Works cannot exceed 30 lbs.
- **Film/Video/New Media**
 - Submissions cannot exceed 5 minutes.
 - Submissions must be in MP4 (preferred), MOV, or AVI
 - At least 1080p (1920 × 1080) preferred; 4K accepted but not required.
- Submissions must be 100% original in idea, design and execution, and created solely by the artist entering the contest.
- Designs may not include AI-generated images.
- Artists are responsible for securing all rights for music, visuals, or other media incorporated into their work.
- All visuals and language must be suitable for youth under the age of 18.
- Potentially dangerous or hazardous parts to a piece are not permitted.

SUBMISSION FEE

YOUNG ADULT ARTISTS: Ages 16 – 21

- Sitar Students and Non-Sitar Students
 - Free up to five (5) pieces

ADULT ARTISTS: Ages 22 and older

- Sitar Community Members (parents, faculty, volunteers, or staff):
 - Free up to three (3) pieces
 - \$5 per additional piece, up to two (2) additional pieces
- Non-Sitar Community Members
 - \$15 up to three (3) pieces
 - \$5 per additional piece, up to two (2) additional pieces



The submission fee is non-refundable. Payment of fee does not guarantee acceptance.

HOW TO APPLY AND APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Artists must complete the online submission form and remit their entry fee (if applicable) - <https://www.sitarartscenter.org/gallery/juried-exhibition>
- Artists must submit high resolution images of each 2D and 3D artwork submitted. Images must be a PNG, JPG, or JPEG file at least 1200 pixels wide and 300 dpi (or 4 inches wide at 300 dpi.)
- Film/video/new media submissions must be MP4 (preferred), MOV, or AVI file, submitted via online link(s) (i.e. YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive).
- Files MUST use the following naming format:
 - Last Name_First Name_Title of work.JPEG
 - Example: Sitar_Patricia_Tomorrow.jpg
- Artists must submit a brief artist statement (up to 150 words) describing the work, the inspiration for the piece, and/or the process used to create it.
- Artists, or parent/guardian of artists under the age of 18, must agree to the terms and conditions of this prospectus.

SELECTION, AWARD CATEGORIES & PRIZES

Submissions will be reviewed by a committee comprised of Sitar staff to determine entry into the exhibition. A panel of guest jurors will evaluate all accepted works for award consideration based on originality, composition, connection to theme, creativity and presentation using a point-based system.



Awards will be presented in three categories, as noted below. Category type is determined by an artist's age at the time of submission.

<i>Adult: Age 22 and over</i>	<i>Young Adult: Age 16-21</i>	<i>People's Choice Award</i>
<i>1st Place - \$450</i>	<i>1st Place - \$250</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>2nd Place - \$250</i>	<i>2nd Place - \$150</i>	<i>(Chosen by community vote.)</i>

Award winners will be announced at the Opening Reception. Winners do not have to be present at the Opening Reception to receive their award. Awards will be mailed to any winner who is unable to attend.

TIMELINE

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Sunday, November 15, 2026

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION: Friday, December 4, 2026

ARTWORK DROP-OFF: Monday, January 18 – Saturday, January 23, 2027

Accepted work **MUST** be dropped off at or delivered to Sitar Arts Center during the drop-off period, unless otherwise arranged. Works not received as agreed upon will not be included in the exhibition.

EXHIBITION DATES: Monday, February 8 – Saturday, March 13, 2027

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, February 11, 2027, at 7:00 p.m.

ARTWORK PICKUP: Wednesday, March 17 – Saturday, March 27, 2027

SALES

- Artists may designate works as for sale or not for sale (NFS).
- Sitar Arts Center will retain a 20% commission on all artwork sales.
- Artists will receive 80% of the sale price within 60 days after the exhibition closes.
- Sold works must remain on view for the duration of the exhibition.
- Legal ownership of sold work transfers to the buyer upon the artist's receipt of payment. The artist retains copyright unless otherwise agreed in writing.



- Sitar Arts Center will coordinate pickup or delivery of sold works to collectors on behalf of the artist.

ARTIST RESPONSIBILITIES

- Obtain insurance coverage for all exhibited works.
- Submit a complete checklist of works (title, medium, dimensions, price, and insurance value) for the loan agreement prior to delivery.
- Deliver professionally presented artwork that meets the quality of the accepted proposal.
- Deliver and pick up all artwork in person or through a designated representative, and/or cover all packing and shipping costs to and from Sitar Arts Center.
 - Artists will be invoiced for return shipping of unsold works; invoices must be paid before works are shipped back.
- Provide high-resolution images for Sitar's print and digital marketing.
- Personally install any site-specific or unusually presented work.
- Adhere to all deadlines provided by Sitar Arts Center.

SITAR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee installation of the exhibition (artists may be consulted as necessary).
- Produce promotional materials, including digital assets for artists to share.
- Promote the exhibition across Sitar's communication channels during the run of the show.
- Promptly notify the artist of any damage to exhibited work.

EXHIBITION AGREEMENT AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All works are loaned by the artist and warranted to be the artist's original creation.
- By applying, artists grant Sitar Arts Center permission to use submitted images and provided high-resolution images for promotion of the exhibition.
- Sitar Arts Center is not responsible for loss or damage; artists must secure their own insurance.
- Works not properly prepared for hanging or display will be excluded from the exhibition and must be retrieved within 10 business days of opening (February 26, 2027).
Uncollected works will incur a \$50 storage fee per piece
- Shipping costs to and from the gallery are the responsibility of the artist.
- Uncollected works after the pickup period will incur a \$50 storage fee per piece. After 30 days, any unclaimed artwork will become the property of Sitar Arts Center.

QUESTIONS? Please contact us at gallery@sitarartscenter.org.