APPLIED ARTS

2026 PHOTOGRAPHY & ILLUSTRATION AWARDS
DEADLINE: January 30, 2026

ILLUSTRATION

REQUIREMENTS
A single is **1** illustration*. A series is **2-5** illustrations.
- **MULTIPAGE APPLICATIONS:** Upload up to 9 pages or spreads that represent the entire application.

SINGLE: $40 | **SERIES:** $65*
**Except where indicated.*

IL/01 Advertising Illustration – Single
IL/02 Advertising Illustration – Series

IL/03 Cause-Related Illustration – Single
IL/04 Cause-Related Illustration – Series

IL/05 Conceptual Illustration – Single
IL/06 Conceptual Illustration – Series

IL/07 Corporate Illustration – Single
IL/08 Corporate Illustration – Series

IL/09 Corporate – Entire Brochure/Report – Single

IL/10 Digital Album Covers – Single or Series
A single or a series of up to 5 illustrations created as cover art for digital albums or podcasts used on streaming platforms. For physical CDs/album covers, use IL/37, Illustration Other.

IL/11 Editorial – Cover/Page/Spread – Single
IL/12 Editorial – Cover/Page/Spread – Series
Books or publications, including digital editions, include cartoon/comic strips. For a complete graphic novel, use IL/13 and IL/14.

IL/13 Editorial – Entire Book – Single
IL/14 Editorial – Entire Book – Series
Entire books or publications, including digital editions and graphic novels. **SINGLE:** Up to 9 illustrations from 1 book or publication. **SERIES:** Up to 9 pages each from 2-3 books or publications. *(SINGLE: $65/ SERIES: $100)*

IL/15 Environmental/Spaces – Single
IL/16 Environmental/Spaces – Series

IL/17 Fashion & Beauty – Single
IL/18 Fashion & Beauty – Series

IL/19 Gallery Illustration – Single
IL/20 Gallery Illustration – Series

IL/21 Packaging Illustration – Single or Series

Photo-Illustration
Use of photo-editing techniques to create collage and montage illustrations. To submit a Photo-Illustration, use PH/33 (see page 02).

IL/22 Portrait Illustration – Single
IL/23 Portrait Illustration – Series

IL/24 Poster Illustration – Single
IL/25 Poster Illustration – Series

IL/26 Promotional – Social Media – Single
IL/27 Promotional – Social Media – Series

IL/28 Promotional – Retail Applications – Single
IL/29 Promotional – Retail Applications – Series

IL/30 Pro Bono/PSA/Charity – Single
IL/31 Pro Bono/PSA/Charity – Series

IL/32 Self-Promotion Illustration – Single
IL/33 Self-Promotion Illustration – Series
Illustrations used for self-promotion in a commercial context (e.g. mailer, online ad, etc.). **MUST INCLUDE** the self-promotion in context. For work used in a non-commercial element, see Unpublished/Personal Illustration (IL/36 and IL/37).

IL/34 Small Community/Business – Series
EXCLUSIVELY FOR CANADIAN ARTISTS/FIRMS working in smaller communities (under 250,000) or with small businesses. Entries may include any application from the corresponding goruping categories and can consist of a single piece or a series of up to five from within the category.

IL/35 Unpublished/Personal Illustration – Single
IL/36 Unpublished/Personal Illustration – Series

IL/37 Illustration Other – Series
illustrations that do not reasonably fit into any other category (e.g., 3D illustration, calendar, CD/album cover, experimental, experiential, etc.). **Work submitted to IL/37 cannot also be entered in IL/01–36.** Entries can be a single or a series of up to five images. **MUST INCLUDE** a brief description (max. 50 words) explaining the application, usage, or intention for the judges.

NOTE: Additional Illustration categories in the Motion and Young Blood sub-groups, starting on page 03.

PHOTOGRAPHY

REQUIREMENTS
A single is **1** image*. A series is **2-5** images.

- **MULTIPAGE APPLICATIONS:** Upload up to 9 pages or spreads that represent the entire application.

SINGLE: $40 | **SERIES:** $65*
**Except where indicated.*

PH/01 Advertising Photography – Single
PH/02 Advertising Photography – Series

PH/03 Architectural Photography – Single
PH/04 Architectural Photography – Series

PH/05 Arts & Culture Photography – Single
PH/06 Arts & Culture Photography – Series

PH/07 Cause-Related Photography – Single
PH/08 Cause-Related Photography – Series

PH/09 Conceptual Photography – Single
PH/10 Conceptual Photography – Series

PH/11 Corporate Photography – Single
PH/12 Corporate Photography – Series

PH/13 Corporate – Entire Brochure/Report – Single
A complete multipage corporate application (e.g. annual report, brochure, catalogue, etc.). *($65)*

PH/14 Digital Album Covers – Single or Series
A single or a series of up to 5 images created as cover art for digital albums or podcasts used on streaming platforms. For physical CDs/album covers, use PH/57, Photography Other.

PH/15 Editorial – Cover/Page/Spread – Single
PH/16 Editorial – Cover/Page/Spread – Series
For books or publications, including digital editions and cookbooks.

PH/17 Editorial – Entire Book – Single
PH/18 Editorial – Entire Book – Series
Entire books or publications, including digital editions and cookbooks. **SINGLE:** Up to 9 images from 1 book or publication. **SERIES:** Up to 9 pages each from 2-3 books or publications. (*SINGLE: $65 / SERIES: $100)*

PH/19 Environmental/Spaces – Single
PH/20 Environmental/Spaces – Series

PH/21 Event/Experiential – Single or Series

PH/22 Fashion & Beauty Photography – Single
PH/23 Fashion & Beauty Photography – Series

PH/24 Food Photography – Single
PH/25 Food Photography – Series
For cookbooks, use PH/15 - PH/18.

PH/26 Gallery Photography – Single
PH/27 Gallery Photography – Series

PH/28 Lifestyle Photography – Single
PH/29 Lifestyle Photography – Series

PH/30 Nature, Landscape & Wildlife – Single
PH/31 Nature, Landscape & Wildlife – Series

PH/32 Packaging – Single or Series

PH/33 Photo-Illustration – Single or Series
Use of photo-editing techniques to create a collage and montage illustration. Show the before and after images.

PH/34 Photo Manipulation – Single
PH/35 Photo Manipulation – Series
Use of image editing to create special effects. Minor image enhancements or corrections not accepted. **MUST SHOW** before and after images.

PH/36 Photojournalism Photography – Single
PH/37 Photojournalism Photography – Series

PH/38 Portrait Photography – Single
PH/39 Portrait Photography – Series

PH/40 Promotional – Social Media – Single
PH/41 Promotional – Social Media – Series

PH/42 Promo – Retail Applications – Single
PH/43 Promo – Retail Applications – Series

PH/44 Pro Bono/PSA/Charity – Single
PH/45 Pro Bono/PSA/Charity – Series

PH/46 Self-Promotion Photography – Single
PH/47 Self-Promotion Photography – Series
Images in a self–promotion used in a commercial element (e.g. mailer, online ad, etc.). **MUST INCLUDE the self-promotion in context.** For work used in a non-commercial element, use Unpublished/Personal Photography (PH/56 and PH/57).

PH/48 Small Community/Business – Series
EXCLUSIVELY FOR CANADIAN ARTISTS/FIRMS working in smaller communities (under 250,000) or on small businesses. Entries may include any application from the corresponding grouping of categories and can consist of a single piece or a series of up to five from within the category.

PH/49 Sports Photography – Single
PH/50 Sports Photography – Series

PH/51 Still Life Photography – Single
PH/52 Still Life Photography – Series

PH/53 Travel Photography – Single
PH/54 Travel Photography – Series

PH/55 Unpublished/Personal – Single
PH/56 Unpublished/Personal – Series

PH/57 Photography Other – Series
Photography that cannot reasonably fit in any other category (e.g. a calendar, catalogue, experimental, etc.). **Work submitted to PH/57 CANNOT be entered in PH/01–56.** Entries can be a single or a series of up to five images**. MUST INCLUDE** a brief description (max. 50 words) for the judges explaining the application/ usage/intention.

MOTION

REQUIREMENTS
A Single is **1** video. **|** A Series is **2-5** Short/Long videos.

- **SHORT:** Less than 3 minutes.
- **LONG:** 3 minutes or more.

SINGLE SHORT: $100 | **SINGLE LONG:** $115 | **SERIES SHORT/LONG:** $150

ANIMATION

MO/01 Animated Character – Single
MO/02 Animated Character – Series

MO/03 Animation - Short – Single
MO/04 Animation - Long – Single
MO/05 Animation - Short/Long – Series

MO/06 Explainer Videos – Single
MO/07 Explainer Videos – Series

MO/08 Promotional – Social Media – Single
MO/09 Promotional – Social Media – Series

MO/10 Pro Bono/PSA/Charity – Single
MO/11 Pro Bono/PSA/Charity – Single

MO/12 Small Community/Business – Series
EXCLUSIVELY FOR CANADIAN ARTISTS/FIRMS working in smaller communities (under 250,000) or on small businesses. Entries may include any application from the corresponding category and can consist of a single or a series of up to five from that category.

CINEMATOGRAPHY

MO/13 Cinematography – Short – Single
MO/14 Cinematography – Long – Single
MO/15 Cinematography – Short/Long – Series

MO/16 Directing for Ad – Short – Single
MO/17 Directing for Ad – Long – Single
MO/18 Directing for Ad – Short/Long – Series

MO/19 Documentary – Single

MO/20 Explainer Videos – Single
MO/21 Explainer Videos – Series

MO/22 Promotional – Social Media – Single
MO/23 Promotional – Social Media – Series

MO/24 Pro Bono/PSA /Charity – Single
MO/25 Pro Bono/PSA/Charity – Single

MO/26 Viral/PR – Single
MO/27 Viral/PR – Series

MO/28 Small Community/Business – Series
EXCLUSIVELY FOR CANADIAN ARTISTS/FIRMS working in smaller communities (under 250,000) or on small businesses. Entries may include any application from the corresponding grouping of categories and can consist of a single or a series of up to five from that category.

YOUNG BLOOD

REQUIREMENTS
A Single is **1** illustration/image*. A Series is **2–5** Illustrations/images.

- **ELIGIBILITY:** Open to professionals who have graduated within the last 3 years.
- **CATEGORIES:** Entries can be any application from the corresponding previous groupings of categories. The same project can be submitted in more than one category within a grouping (i.e. Advertising Photography and Pro Bono/PSA/Charity). If submitting to more than one category, we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** including the category in your entry title for added clarity (a separate entry must be submitted).
- **RECOMMENDED:** Where context/end use or category is not obvious in your submission, include a brief description (max. 50 words, or max 10-second intro for motion files).
- **JUDGING:** Entries will be judged with the level of experience and exposure within the industry taken into consideration.

SINGLE: $30 | **SERIES:** $55
** Exceptions noted in the corresponding previous categories.*

YB/01 Young Blood Illustration – Single
YB/02 Young Blood Illustration – Series
Any application from the Illustration groupings of categories on Page 01.

YB/03 Young Blood Photography – Single
YB/04 Young Blood Photography – Series
Any application from the Photography groupings of categories starting on Page 02.

YB/05 Young Blood Motion - Animation – Single
YB/06 Young Blood Motion - Animation – Series
Any application from the Motion – Animation groupings of categories on Page 03. *(SINGLE: $50/SERIES: $80)*

YB/07 Young Blood Motion - Cinematography – Single
YB/08 Young Blood Motion - Cinematography – Series
Any application from the Motion – Cinematography groupings of categories starting on Page 03. *(SINGLE: $50/SERIES: $80)*

CONTACT US

For category-related entry requirements, general awards information or technical issues, contact our Awards Manager at **awards@appliedartsmag.com** or call 416.510.0909 ext. 30.

For more information, visit **appliedartsmag.com.**

DISCLAIMER

Applied Arts reserves the right to amend these rules throughout the competition. Applied Arts assumes all entries are original and the property of the entrant, with all rights granted therein. Applied Arts reserves the right to publish or exhibit entries for our print or electronic formats or related promotions. Entries are non-refundable. Costs cover administration, processing, and the judging of the entry. Entries may be moved to a more suitable category if Applied Arts deem the category chosen unsuitable. All descriptions and credits are subject to be edited for length, clarity and grammar in accordance with the Applied Arts editorial style guide. A submission of entry acknowledges acceptance of these rules.