OLYMPICS OF THE VISUAL ARTS

Originality, Brain Storming and Creative Problem-Solving
Spring 2021

Digital Submissions due on or before
April 23, 2021
Virtual Awards Reception & On-Demand Design
May 7, 2021, 5pm

The Olympics of the Visual Arts is an extracurricular school program for students across New York State. Its founding group, the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA), views the visual arts as a discipline equal to other disciplines that challenge and stimulate our youth, and believes that creativity and creative problem solving in the visual arts is vital to a full and enriched life in our technological and scientific society.

The Olympics of the Visual Arts presents a series of design problems that require utilizing historical references, brainstorming, problem solving, and creative solutions. There are two forms of problem solving. One is a long-term problem that will require research, planning, and creativity, and is completed prior to the State Competition. The other form of problem will be a short-term or spontaneous solution and is completed on-demand during the State Competition.

The long-term problem categories this year are: *Architecture, Photography, Fashion Design, Sculpture, Painting, Drawing, Illustration, and Jewelry Design.* The problem in each category will have performance standards to meet through the visual arts. All problems are connected by a general theme.

OVA Participation Requirements
There are three entry levels for participants: grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Students will compete within their age level groups in each problem category. Problems may be solved by an individual or by a group. **Each participating school district may enter only ONE solution for each problem, in each grade level group**. School districts are encouraged to have their own mini-OVA program to evaluate and select the most appropriate solution for State competition. School districts also should engage their students in solving spontaneous problems to prepare for the event.

Students are encouraged to showcase their solutions in their own school district during YOUTH ART MONTH in March, and/or following the OVA competition. Each teacher who enters student work must be a member or district member of NYSATA. All registration will take place online at www.nysata.org/olympics-of-the-visual-arts.

Online registration, is available through **February 12, 2021**. School districts should forward a check or purchase order (made payable to NYSATA) for the number of teams they plan to register ($15 per team). The designated contact person from the district is responsible for communicating and coordinating with all participants for the school district. A slide template with submission Guidelines will be provided to the school contact person.

State Level OVA Procedures
Solutions to long-term problems must be original and complete submitted in a Google Slide presentation. A template will be provided so teams can share their portfolio of evidence (historical and cultural references, working sketches, design iterations, and views of the final product.) Fashion entries may also include either a video (mp4file) link or YouTube video link in the Google Slide presentation of the 60-second catwalk and a written description to accompany photos.

This year, the spontaneous problem will be facilitated via live zoom webinar and will not be included in scoring. Students will be able to share their results on the NYSATA OVA social media sites. The score for the long-term problem will be used to determine the top three winners at each grade level in each category. A special award for the most creative entry per category will be presented. Awards will be mailed to winning teams following the event.