



The Paul and Norma
TIKKANEN
PAINTING PRIZE

ASHTABULA
Arts
CENTER

2026 Prospectus

The Paul and Norma Tikkanen Art Foundation (based in Ashtabula, Ohio) is a private foundation that supports visual arts in NE Ohio and NW Pennsylvania. Established by artist Paul Tikkanen, it funds the annual Paul and Norma Tikkanen Painting Prize exhibit hosted at the Ashtabula Arts Center. This competition awards significant prizes for both abstract and realistic paintings.

Calendar:

Jun 1-Jul 15, 2026: Art Call digital first round application (include high resolution image) **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO APPLY BEFORE JUN 1.**

July 16-20: Online jury process to continue to second round

Jul 22: Notification for artists to continue to second, in-person round

Aug 1-8: Drop off of second round selections

Aug 8: In-person jury process

Aug 10: Second round notification for artists

Aug 10-15: Retrieval of cut artworks

Oct 3: Public reception and award ceremony, 6-9 p.m.

Oct 31: Show closes

Nov 2-7 Artwork pick-up

Prizes:

2 \$15,000 First Place prizes

2 \$8000 Second Place prizes

4 Possible \$1500 Honorable Mention prizes

1 \$500 People's Choice prize

Eligibility (artists must reside in one of the following):

Counties in OH: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain,

Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Summit, Trumbull

Counties in PA: Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer

Current full and part-time employees, board members of AAC, board members of the Tikkanen Foundation, AAC Foundation supervisors, and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate.

Entry Fee:

\$15 per piece. Each applicant limited to 2 entries.

Rights and Responsibilities:

All accepted artworks must remain at the AAC through October 31

Gallery will collect 30% commission on all sales.

AAC shall have the right to use images of exhibited artworks for the catalog and all promotional purposes.

Artwork dropoff and pick up must be done in person. All works must be signed into and out of the AAC.

All pieces must be wired ready to hang. Works which are not appropriately wired will not be displayed.

Unclaimed artwork becomes the property of the AAC on Nov 30, 2026.

Artworks are covered by insurance while in possession of the AAC. They are not covered during transportation to and from the AAC.

The Arts Center has the right to accept or reject any artworks for any reason.

Artwork:

Prizes will be awarded for abstract & realistic work

Categorization of individual works will be decided by the judges

Accepted mediums: Gouache, Fresco, Encaustic, Ink (Sumi-e), Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Alcohol Inks, Tempera, Mixed Media

Painting, Spray Paint, Airbrush

(Jurors will have final say on acceptable mediums. 85% of the painting should be a painting medium.) Originals only; no giclees, no prints, no wet paint.

Work must be entirely created by the artist. Use of AI tools, including generative AI, image synthesis, or other automated content creation tools will render the work ineligible for acceptance.

Pre-wired; include a fragile piece disclaimer if needed

Completed in the last 3 years

Maximum size 4ftx4ft; max weight 25lbs

High school students not eligible

Paul and Norma Tikkanen Foundation Acquisition (New for 2026)

The Paul and Norma Tikkanen Foundation will claim the 2026 First and Second prize winners as an acquisition. Artists will transfer ownership of artworks to the Paul and Norma Tikkanen Foundation in exchange for their prize. The Paul and Norma Tikkanen Foundation will handle the acquisition collection and process. All work entered must be for sale. Artworks must not exceed \$8000 per the acquisition limit set by the Paul and Norma Tikkanen Foundation.