Virginia 4-H Equine Art Contest

Entries must be turned in to the State 4-H Horse Show Office (Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA) by ***6 PM on Thursday of the State Show.***

This contest is open to all Virginia 4-H members, regardless of project enrollment. Competitors will be divided into Junior and Senior. A special area of the art contest display will be dedicated to our non-competing Cloverbud artists. Participants do not have to be competing in the horse show in order to enter this contest.

All entries will be on display in the upper level of the Waldron Arena. **Placings will be posted on the artwork by 10am Saturday.** Exhibitors are asked to pick up ribbons at a later time that will be announced at the State Horse Show.
Questions may be directed to Elizabeth Walker at elizaaw@vt.edu or Hunter Liles at huntl97@vt.edu

New for 2026: Entries into the Art contest must be pre-entered by September 1, 2026 via the Google Form linked here: https://tinyurl.com/26PhotoArt

- ***Entries may be made on behalf of youth by youth, parents, club leaders, or VCE Extension Faculty and Staff.***
- ***Entries must still display the "Display Form" with contact information on the back of each entry.***

Please do not pick up artwork until 5pm Saturday of the State Show.

The following rules apply to ***all*** entries, regardless of age category:
SIZE: Minimum of 8 x 11 inches; Maximum of 16x20 inches. Includes framing and/or mat.
MEDIA: Pencil; pen/ink; colored pencils; crayons; watercolor; oils; acrylics; collage; stained glass
INFO: The form below must be copied and adhered to the back of the entry.
DISPLAY: Only MATTED artwork will be accepted! NO FRAMES!

The **CREATIVE CATEGORY** will be judged on the following criteria:

- ✓ Expression of emotional response relating to equine activity.
- ✓ Technique in which this expression is executed.
- ✓ Arrangement of elements.
- ✓ Use of space.

PLEASE NOTE: Paint by numbers kits, tracings and any form of pre-printed canvas/paper artwork submitted will not be judged and will not be considered for the competition. Such pieces submitted will be displayed in the same location as the competing artwork. This determination will be made by the judge during the judging process.

Judging/Awards:
Each entry in the Art Contest will be judged by a local recognized artist. First through Tenth place ribbons will be awarded in the Junior division and in the Senior division. Digital Art will be judged as one category for all ages. All entries will receive a participation ribbon. A Champion and Reserve Champion will be awarded for the overall highest scores. Cloverbud entries will not be judged but will receive participation ribbons. The Champion entry may be used for the cover of the State Horse Show Program. *(The Show Committee respectfully requests the permission of the winning artists to use their artwork in this manner.)*

2026 Art Contest Display Form

Name _____ Age (As of September 30, 2026) _____

Address_____

Email Address_____

Contact phone number_____

4-H Unit (County or City)_____ 4-H Club _____

Leader Name _____

4-H Extension Agent Name_____

Title of Entry _____

Description of Artwork _____

Was this artwork created Digitally? _____

Should your artwork place Top 5 in your division, it may be displayed. By signing below you agree to the following:

In consideration for the privilege of exhibiting my art/photograph, I hereby release Virginia Tech, VA State 4-H, and any affiliates or employees associated with the listed organizations from responsibility for loss, damage, or destruction while my art/photograph is in on display.
My art/photograph may be used at area art shows or exhibition/information tables to represent the VA State 4-H Horse Program. This use of my art/photograph may occur without acknowledgement from me, and without any notification for this purpose.
My art/photograph may not be reproduced in any manner nor used on any printed materials or displayed on the internet without my written consent. Art/Photograph will be returned the following year to the State 4-H Horse Show Office for personal pick up or by other arrangements to be determined.

Signed: _____ Date_____
Parent/Guardian or Owner of Art/Photograph (must be 18)