

THE ACAS PRIZE



COMPETITION RULES, CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Eligibility

Artists must be currently enrolled as a student in a NSW secondary school.

Entries must be accompanied by a written acknowledgment of the artist's traditional mob/country and a brief statement explaining what their Aboriginal or Torres Strait heritage means to them.

Additionally, the artist must be able to establish their Aboriginal or/and Torres Strait Islander heritage by submitting Verification of Heritage form with their entry.

2. Entries

There are two divisions in the 2026 ACAS Prize:

Traditional visual art styles

Entries in this division must demonstrably reflect the traditional art styles of the country / mob(s) with whom the artist identifies. Entries must be accompanied by a statement from the artist identifying the traditional style and how their artwork reflects that style. However, artists should not submit artworks in the traditional style of a mob with whom they are not associated.

Contemporary visual arts styles

Entries in this division can reflect any visual art style of the artist's choice.

Entries

Artists may enter up to two artworks in each section of the 2026 ACAS Prize. The artist must submit an image of each work entered accompanied by the Entry Form by Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 5pm. All images must be JPEGs and must not exceed 5MB each in file size.

Entries must be accompanied by the Verification of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage form and the Verification of authenticity of artwork form.

The assistance of artificial intelligence in the art making is strictly forbidden.

3. Medium

The 2026 ACAS Prize is open to original 2D artworks. Acceptable disciplines include drawing, painting, watercolour, collage and printmaking. Artworks can be a single piece, diptych, or triptych. For multiple pieces, a hanging diagram and note must be provided. Collectively, the pieces must not exceed the maximum total size and weight (see below).

Artists must ensure that their artwork is constructed robustly enough to hang in the competition gallery for three weeks.

It is not necessary for artworks to be framed. Artists need to be aware that their artworks may be secured to the gallery walls by pins or magnets.

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS: 1 METRE X 1 METRE

MAXIMUM WEIGHT: 7 KILOGRAMS

4. Selection of Works

A selection panel will view all submissions and will select the finalists in the exhibition from all entries received. All works selected for hanging must remain on display for the duration of the exhibition. Finalists will be contacted by Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

5. Judging

Prior to the exhibition award ceremony, a panel of judges will view all works on display and select one entry for the Traditional Award of \$2,000 and two Highly Commended awards of \$1000 each.

The judges will also select one work for the Contemporary Award of \$2,000 and two Highly Commended awards of \$1000 each. Winners will be announced at the award ceremony on Sunday, July 5 2026 at 2pm.

There will also be a People's Choice Award of \$500. Visitors will be able to vote for their favourite work in the People's Choice Award from Friday June 19 2026 until Friday July 2 2026. The artwork that receives the highest number of votes will receive the People's Choice Award. The winner will be contacted on Friday, July 3 2026.

The decision of the judges will be final, and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.

6. Sale of Works

All works exhibited in the ACAS Prize can be for sale unless marked NFS. Sales will be managed by the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery administration and artists will be reimbursed by ACAS administration. No commissions will be charged. Artists should be aware of their GST obligations and commitments to representing commercial galleries or agents prior to determining the sale price of their artworks and completing the entry form. If you require advice on this matter please call the Australian Taxation Office on 132 478. Prices listed on the entry form are considered final and will not be altered after submission. It is recommended that artists consider pricing their artworks between \$100 and \$500.

7. Preparation of Artworks

Works must be presented ready for exhibition. Framing is not necessary. Unframed works must be able to be attached to the gallery walls by either pins or magnets, which will be provided by the gallery. The artist's name, address and phone number, title of work, and price or NFS must be clearly marked on the back of each work, and on the entry form.

8. Transport and Insurance

Artists whose works are selected for the exhibition will be reimbursed for the cost of forward and return freight of their artwork(s) upon supply of a receipt to ACAS up to the sum of \$100. It will be the responsibility of the artist to organise freight. All transit insurance, forward and return, is to be borne by the artist if so required and ACAS and Hazelhurst Arts Centre accepts no liability for loss or damage during transit. Artists who live within a 30 km radius of the Kirinari Aboriginal Hostel should, if possible, deliver their artwork personally to the hostel at 340 Box Rd. Sylvania 2224. Insurance whilst works are on exhibition will be covered by Hazelhurst Arts Centre.

9. Receipt of Entries and Delivery Location

Works selected for the exhibition are to arrive on or before Monday, June 15, 2026. The works are to be delivered or taken to the Kirinari Aboriginal Hostel, 340 Box Rd., Sylvania NSW 2224. Artworks that are suitable for postage should be posted to The ACAS PRIZE, PO Box 227, Sutherland NSW 1499.

ACAS reserves the right to further assess all works delivered and make a final selection for the exhibition for the exhibition. If a work is rejected at this stage it will be returned to the artist at the expense of ACAS.

10. Collection of Exhibited Works

At the completion of the exhibition artists must collect their works from the Kirinari Hostel on Monday, July 13 between 10am and 4pm or by prior arrangement. ACAS will organise the return freight for artworks from regional, rural and remote locations.

11. Copyright

ACAS and Hazelhurst Arts Centre reserve the right to photograph works exhibited in the ACAS Prize for the purposes of documentation and promotion. All necessary acknowledgements of authorship will be duly made. By entering the competition and accepting the terms and conditions artists agree that images can be broadcast via digital feeds or printed for physical events by ACAS and/or Hazelhurst Arts Centre.

In consideration for ACAS and Hazelhurst Arts Centre awarding the prize to the winners (including Highly Commended), the winners give ACAS and Hazelhurst Arts Centre non-exclusive rights to use their submitted image in promotional formats such as announcing the winners via ACAS and/or Hazelhurst Arts Centre websites and social media applications and in subsequent competition promotions (with attribution). The winners and runners up will not be entitled to any fee for such use.

12. Interpretation of the Rules

In the event of a dispute regarding the interpretation of the conditions, the decision of the Aboriginal Children's Advancement Society shall be binding on all parties.