

HoCo Open 2025

Prospectus & Information

All Howard County visual artists are invited to participate in HoCo Open, the Howard County Arts Council's (HCAC) annual, non-juried exhibit showcasing local artists. Entries will be accepted online beginning November 6th on a first-come basis, one entry per artist, until 100 submissions have been received. All visual arts mediums are welcome and there are no entry fees. Accepted artists will be provided with instructions for dropping off their artwork at HCAC on Monday, December 9th.

Eligibility: Adults (18 years+) who live, work, or study in Howard County or are HCAC members are invited to submit one piece of original artwork, completed in the last two years, and not previously shown in the HCAC galleries. No reproductions (including commercially printed or computer-generated reproductions of paintings, drawings, and other non-digital work) are allowed. All work must fit appropriately into the Gallery I space. Gallery dimensions: 68' x 22' x 9' 5". The gallery entrance is 5'8" x 8'.

Entry: This is a non-juried exhibit and there is no entry fee to participate. The first 100 eligible artists to register are guaranteed a space - afterward, artists can sign up to be on a waitlist. Work must be delivered in person during the times designated; once eligibility is confirmed, artists will receive instructions to drop off and deliver their work. Artists and artwork not meeting eligibility requirements will not be accepted. To register and reserve your space, complete the online form including artwork information. Any requests to substitute artwork listed at the time of registration must be made in writing by 5:00pm on December 1 and must be the same size or smaller than the original artwork registered.

Drop-Off: Accepted artists will be provided with instructions for scheduling a 15-minute drop-off time slot on Monday, December 9th between 2:30-6:30pm to deliver their artwork to HCAC (8510 High Ridge Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21043). Loan agreement forms and submitted artwork information will be printed in advance and ready for artists to sign at drop-off. Artwork must be wired, framed, and ready to hang; no space will be available to make adjustments to artwork or complete the form during delivery.

Sales: A 20% commission will be retained by HCAC on all sales. Work will be sold at the price listed on the entry form. Work that is not for sale should be marked "NFS," and an insurance value must be included.

Awards: Back by popular demand, the \$500 Covington Emerging Artist Award, given by Robin Holliday in honor of Ms. Mable Covington Holliday, recognizes an emerging artist whose work reflects the power of the creative spirit. Artists who have been exhibiting and/or selling their art for three (3) years or less are eligible for this award. Participation as a student in sales or events that are part of an academic program or curriculum does not affect eligibility. Artists, employees, and volunteers who were affiliated with *HorseSpirit Arts Gallery* are not eligible for this award. For more information & eligibility restrictions, visit hocoarts.org.

Presentation: All work must be delivered ready for hanging and installation. Upon drop-off, there will be no space available to frame or adjust artwork; artwork not ready to hang will be rejected. 2D wall work must be wired for hanging – tabs and sawtooth hangers are not allowed. Installation instructions should be included where necessary. A limited number of pedestals are available for sculptural work. For artwork with specific display requirements, the artist may need to provide their own pedestal or technology. Artists are responsible for installing and de-installing objects that have complex installation requirements and/or need more than one person to install/de-install.

Liability: All work is insured against physical damage or loss, less the 20% commission, from time of receipt by HCAC through the designated date and time of pick-up. A \$25 per day late fee will be charged for any work left after February 3, 2025.

Agreement: Exhibited work may not be removed before February 1, 2025. HCAC reserves the right to photograph any accepted work for publicity or educational purposes. HCAC reserves the right of final editorial review of all exhibitions and their contents, and work may be withdrawn by HCAC. Submission of work constitutes an understanding of an agreement with all of the conditions set forth in this prospectus.

Calendar:

- November 6 – Online registration opens for submissions.
 - Monday, December 9, 2:30-6:30pm – **Artwork drop-off*** at HCAC, 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, 21043. Artists are required to sign up for a 15-minute drop-off timeslot in advance. Instructions to sign up for a timeslot will be shared after artists are accepted.
 - Friday, December 13, 10am – **Exhibit opens** to the public.
 - Friday, January 17, 2025, 6-8pm – **Reception**; free and open to the public. (Snow Date: January 24)
 - Saturday, February 1, 2025, 4pm - **Exhibit closes**.
 - Sunday, February 2, 2025, 12-4pm - Artwork Pick-Up
 - Monday, February 3, 2025, 10am-7pm - Artwork Pick-Up
- *Drop-off times are non-negotiable.***

Click this link starting November 6 to submit your entry:

<https://airtable.com/appFmMnUTnV6OULOj/pagEOx5pdF2YLiy39/form>

Questions? Contact us at exhibits@hocoarts.org or (410) 313-2787.