



2025-2026 ART CONTEST

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THEME

High School, College, and University students in the DFW Metroplex area are cordially invited to participate in our 3rd Annual Art Contest hosted by the Dialogue Institute Dallas. This contest encourages students attending schools in the DFW Metroplex area to showcase their creativity through original works of art centered around the profound theme of **"Harmony in Motion Finding Peace in a Changing World."**

Subtopics for the **"Harmony in Motion: Finding Peace in a Changing World"** include, but are not limited to:

- **How Can Peace and Harmony be Discovered While Everything is in Motion?:**
- **What Does Harmony Look Like in a Constantly Changing World?**
- **How Do People, Communities and Nature Itself Find Balance and Beauty Amid Challenges?**

This global and humanistic theme encompasses various fields of study, including but not limited to:

HIGH SCHOOLS in DFW

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ● Fine Arts | ● Art & Design |
| ● Theater and Performing Arts | ● Philosophy |
| ● Sociology and Anthropology | ● Psychology |
| ● History and Cultural Studies | ● Gifted Programs |
| | ● Home Schooling Students |

To explore the theme of harmony in motion, high school students can use various artistic forms such as painting, drawing, photography, digital art, and video to express empathy, tolerance, and cooperation. Additionally, philosophical concepts related to harmony, ethics, and the human experience can be studied, along with historical examples of understanding peace and harmony that shape our understanding of unity.

In addition to promoting global citizenship, this Contest is co-curricular and adheres to national educational curriculum standards, specifically the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). See Appendix A.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES in DFW

- Fine Arts Schools/ Colleges
- Theatre Arts departments
- Humanities departments
- Education departments
- Sociology departments
- Anthropology departments
- Psychology departments
- International Studies Programs
- Global Engagement Offices
- Honors Programs
- Communication and Public Relations departments
- History Departments
- Gender and Ethnic Studies Programs
- Student Organizations Focused on Arts or Social Issues
- Community Engagement Offices
- Schools of Art & Design
- Multicultural Affairs Offices

ART Contest Objectives:

- ***Cultivate Cultural Collaboration:*** Encourage collaboration among artists from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- ***Inspire Positive Change:*** Motivate youth to engage in civic action and inspire social change.
- ***Express and Reflect:*** Provide a platform for artistic expression and reflection on coexistence.
- ***Celebrate Shared Values:*** Emphasize universal values and promote cultural exchange.
- ***Foster Inclusivity and Dialogue:*** Create an inclusive environment for constructive dialogue and mutual respect among participants.

AWARDS

Cash prizes and certificates are awarded to winners in the following categories: Drawing/Painting, Photography, and Video. Submissions are divided into high school and college/university levels.

First Place Winners: \$500.00

Second Place Winners: \$300.00

Third Place Winners: \$200.00

Honorable Mention (Seven Winners): \$100.00

The sponsoring/supporting teachers for the first three High School winners will also receive gift cards and certificates. Remaining teachers will also be recognized on stage, but they do not get checks/gift cards. Winners and teachers will also be formally honored at a reception and with associated social media coverage.

***Students are limited to a single entry.**

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS				
Category	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mentions (for students only)
Drawing/Painting	\$500	\$300	\$200	\$100 each (7 winners)
Videography/ Photography	\$500	\$300	\$200	\$100 each (7 winners)

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENTS				
Category	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mentions (for students only)
Drawing/Painting	\$500	\$300	\$200	\$100 each (5 recipients)
Videography/ Photography	\$500	\$300	\$200	\$100 each (5 recipients)

SPONSORING/SUPPORTING TEACHERS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Category	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Drawing/Painting	\$300	\$200	\$100
Videography/ Photography	\$300	\$200	\$100

* Teachers (the first three) will receive the award associated with the highest placement their participating students receive.

The physical artworks must be delivered to Dialogue Institute Dallas 1416 E. Collins Blvd. Richardson, Texas 75081 by **February 4, 2026**. **ISDs more than 20 miles faraway from the address of the Dialogue Institute can drop their artwork at a location determined by the relevant ISD or education department.** The drop off date should be coordinated in a way not to exceed the deadline. Only original works submitted in the contest are eligible for entry.

RULES

DRAWING/PAINTING CATEGORY RULES

- Submissions in the Drawing and Painting category can be created using any two-dimensional medium, including the following subcategories: Drawing, Painting, Collage, and Graphic Design.
- Students are limited to a single entry, regardless of medium.
- Every submission must include the following information:
 - Student's full name
 - Grade
 - School
 - City
 - State
 - Sponsoring/supporting teacher's name (High school Only)
 - Sponsoring/supporting teacher's email address (High school Only)
- Submissions that do not include the above information may be disqualified. Online submission form will prompt you to provide these details and offer instructions for uploading your artwork.
- *ALL ART SUBMISSIONS MUST BE REGISTERED ONLINE* at www.artcontestdfw.org. Please register your artwork well before the deadline to allow for any potential technical issues.
- All submissions must be physically received in our office **no later than February 4, 2026**.
- Winning art pieces become the property of Dialogue Institute Dallas and may be used, copied, and displayed by Dialogue Institute Dallas for promotional and informational purposes.
- Artwork from non-winning students will be returned upon request after the Awards Reception. Please provide a detailed return address on the back of each submission and include postage and packaging for the return of each piece. Non-winning students relinquish all claims to submitted pieces on a date to be determined.
- Please be aware that Dialogue Institute Dallas reserves the right to withhold recognition of winners in any category should the submissions in that category not meet the quality standards determined by our professional judges.

General guidelines for all art submissions:

Traditional media categories include *Drawing*, *Painting*, and *Collage*. Original work must be 16" x 20" which in turn may be *mounted* or *executed* (not matted) on an illustration board of equal size (black in color if possible). Alternatively, artwork can be created on canvas of the same size (16" x 20") for ease of submission. The artwork will extend to the edges of the illustration board. All images must be two-dimensional, original, and not appropriated from any other resource unless dramatically altered. Artwork must be unpublished and completed by one person. The artwork submitted must be your own original concept and not a copy of anyone else's copyrighted material, and it must be personally created by you. Before shipping your artwork (or drop-off), complete a submission form at www.artcontestdfw.org/submission (select your category and level) and receive a code. The instructions to use the code will be emailed to you when you complete the form.

General guidelines for Graphic Design submissions:

Graphic design is defined as using computer media and innovative computer applications in art. Original artwork must be 8.5"x11" only and may be mounted on an illustration board that is also 8.5"x11". Please only mount the piece on an illustration board that is the aforementioned size.

All images must be two-dimensional, original, and not appropriated from any other resource unless dramatically altered. Artwork must be unpublished and completed by one person. The artwork submitted must be your own original concept and not a copy of anyone else's copyrighted material, and it must be personally created by you. This means using AI to generate the artwork is not allowed and would result in your disqualification. Before shipping your artwork (or drop-off) you must first complete a submission form at

www.artcontestdfw.org/submission (select your category and level) and receive a code. The instructions to use the code will be emailed to you when you complete the form.

DISQUALIFYING FACTORS: Artwork may be automatically disqualified or receive lower scores if it lacks the aforementioned criteria. Please follow the exact directions for each submission.

If you have any questions or need clarification for painting/drawing submissions, please contact dallas@thedialoginstitute.org indicating "(AC Support drawing)" in the subject line.

****If indicated by your school board contact, art pieces may also be dropped off at an officially designated office within your county on or before February 4th, 2026.**

DRAWING & PAINTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN CATEGORY RUBRIC

Criteria	Poor Quality (1-7 points)	Good Quality (8-15 points)	Excellent Quality (16-20 points)	Score *Max 20 Points each
Craftsmanship	*There is no evidence of skill development in the media; little technical competency	*Demonstrates some skill with the media; technically proficient	*Demonstrates strong skill with the media; technically accomplished	
Formal Qualities	*Composition lacking a cohesive appearance *Weak integration of elements and principles of design	*Composition lacking a cohesive appearance *Some integration of elements and principles of design	*Composition is cohesively unified *Strong integration of elements and principles of design	
Creativity	*Does not exhibit innovative thinking - very little experimentation to enhance concepts *Does not exhibit creative thinking skills - uses trite or over-used images and/or approach	*Exhibits innovative thinking - sufficient experimentation to enhance concepts *Unusual approach, play on image and concept; use of visual metaphor that has some visible connection to the theme	*Exhibits distinct experimentation and innovation to enhance creative concepts *Use of strong metaphor, personal meaning and/or elaborate or complex visual responses with a strong apparent connection to the theme	
Interpretation of Topic	*Poor interpretation and communication of thematic concepts due to inappropriate or inadequate images or thoughts	*Adequate interpretation and communication of thematic concepts	*Excellent interpretation and communication of thematic concepts	
Artist's Statement (No longer than 200 words)	* There is little or no correspondence between the written statement and the visual image *Does not reflect on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork	* There is moderate correspondence between the written statement and the visual images * Reflects in writing on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork with adequate or minimal explanation	*There is strong correspondence between the written statement and the visual image *Reflects on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork with detail and thorough explanations	

Total (100 points maximum) = _____

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY RULES

Every submission must include the following information and registered at www.artcontestdfw.org/submission:

- :
 - Student's full name
 - Grade
 - School
 - City
 - State
 - Sponsoring/supporting teacher's name (High school Only)
 - Sponsoring/supporting teacher's email address (High school Only)

*Submissions that do not include the required information may be disqualified

General guidelines for Photography submissions:

Photography work includes color and black & white works. Actual photos should be 8" x 10" only and must be printed on 8.5" x 11" photo paper. Please do not frame and do not mount photography submissions. All images must be two-dimensional, original, and not appropriated from any other resource unless dramatically altered. Artwork must be unpublished and completed by one person.

Artwork must be unpublished and completed by one person.

- Winning photographs become the property of Dialogue Institute Dallas and may be used, copied, and displayed by Dialogue Institute Dallas for promotional and informational purposes.
- Photography from non-winning students will be returned upon request after the Awards Ceremony. Please provide a detailed return address on the back of each submission and include postage and packaging for the return of each piece. Non-winning students relinquish all claims to submitted photographs on a date to be determined.
- Please note that Dialogue Institute Dallas reserves the right to withhold recognition of winners in the Photography category should the submissions not meet the quality standards determined by our professional judges.

Please refer to the general guidelines below for specific details on the size and presentation of your photography submissions.

If you have any questions or need clarification for photography submissions, please contact s.isik@thedialoguinstitute.org indicating "(AC Support photography)" in the subject line.

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY RUBRIC

Criteria	Poor Quality (1-7 points)	Good Quality (8-15 points)	Excellent Quality (16-20 points)	Score *Max 20 Points each
Craftsmanship	*There is no evidence of skill development in the media; little technical competency	*Demonstrates some skill with the media; technically proficient	*Demonstrates strong skill with the media; technically accomplished	
Formal Qualities	*Composition lacking a cohesive appearance *Weak integration of elements and principles of design	*Composition lacking a cohesive appearance *Some integration of elements and principles of design	*Composition is cohesively unified *Strong integration of elements and principles of design	
Creativity	*Does not exhibit innovative thinking - very little experimentation to enhance concepts *Does not exhibit creative thinking skills - uses trite or overused images and/or approach	*Exhibits innovative thinking - sufficient experimentation to enhance concepts *Unusual approach, play on image and concept; use of visual metaphor that has some visible connection to the theme	*Exhibits distinct experimentation and innovation to enhance creative concepts *Use of strong metaphor, personal meaning and/or elaborate or complex visual responses with a strong apparent connection to the theme	
Interpretation of Topic	*Poor interpretation and communication of thematic concepts due to inappropriate or inadequate images or thoughts	*Adequate interpretation and communication of thematic concepts	*Excellent interpretation and communication of thematic concepts	
Artist's Statement (No longer than 200 words)	* There is little or no correspondence between the written statement and the visual image *Does not reflect on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork	* There is moderate correspondence between the written statement and the visual images * Reflects in writing on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork with adequate or minimal explanation	*There is strong correspondence between the written statement and the visual image *Reflects on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork with detail and thorough explanations	

Total (100 points maximum) = _____

VIDEO CATEGORY RULES

Video Contest Guidelines

- **Submission:** Every submission must include the following information:
 - Student's full name
 - Grade
 - School
 - City
 - State
 - Sponsoring/supporting teacher's name (High school Only)
 - Sponsoring/supporting teacher's email address (High school Only)
- **Content:** Your video should effectively communicate and focus on the content "Harmony in Motion: Finding Peace in a Changing World" delivering a clear and compelling message. Make sure your content is appropriate for all audiences.
- **Video Length:** Videos should be a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 2.5 minutes. Keep your video concise and engaging.
- **Originality:** We encourage creativity and originality. Avoid using copyrighted material without proper permission. Artwork must be created solely by the student, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) software or tools to generate or modify the artwork is not permitted.
- **Production Quality:** Pay attention to production quality. Ensure that your video has clear audio, smooth transitions, and well-composed shots. Keep shaky footage or background noise to a minimum.
- **Impact:** Aim to create a video that leaves an impact on the viewer. Whether it evokes emotions or provokes thought, your video should have a lasting impression.
- **Ownership:** By submitting your video, you grant Dialogue Institute Dallas the right to use, copy, and display your video for promotional and informational purposes.
- **Entry Limit:** Each participant or team may submit only one video entry. Reward Money will be split among the team members being no more than three people.
- **Eligibility:** The contest is open to high school students and college students. Please ensure you meet the eligibility requirements.
- **Judging Process:** Videos will be judged based on the provided rubric, and winners will be selected based on their scores.
- **Submission:** To submit your video, visit artcontestdfw.org/submission.
- **Submission Format:** Videos must be submitted in MP4, . MKV, or . MOV and are at most 256MB in size. Ensure that your videos are of sufficient quality for viewing. To submit your video, visit artcontestdfw.org/submission. If you have any questions or need clarification for video submissions, please contact dallas@thedialogueinstitute.org by indicating " (AC Support)" in the subject line.

VIDEO CATEGORY RUBRIC

Criteria	Excellent (17-20)	Good (13-16)	Satisfactory (9-12)	Needs Improvement (5-8)	Unsatisfactory (0-4)	Score *Max 20 Points each
Content	The video effectively communicates the theme, is engaging, and provides a clear message.	The video communicates the theme well and is engaging.	The video somewhat communicates the theme and is somewhat engaging.	The video lacks a clear message and engagement.	The video does not communicate the theme and is not engaging.	
Creativity	The video displays exceptional creativity, originality, and innovative storytelling.	The video is creative and original in its approach.	The video is somewhat creative and original.	The video lacks creativity and originality.	The video shows no creativity or originality.	
Production Quality	The video has high production quality, including clear audio, smooth transitions, and well-composed shots.	The video has good production quality with some minor issues.	The video has noticeable production quality issues.	The video has significant production quality problems.	The video has severe production quality issues.	
Impact	The video leaves a strong impact on the viewer, evoking emotions or provoking thought.	The video leaves a positive impact on the viewer.	The video has some impact on the viewer.	The video has minimal impact on the viewer.	The video has no impact on the viewer.	
Artist's Statement (No longer than 200 words)	*There is strong correspondence between the written statement and the visual image *Reflects on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork with detail and thorough explanations	* There is moderate correspondence between the written statement and the visual images * Reflects in writing on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork with	* There is little or no correspondence between the written statement and the visual image *Does not reflect on the experiences or art processes utilized in the creation of the artwork			

		adequate or minimal explanation				
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Total (100 points maximum) = _____

JUDGING

- Submissions will be judged by a committee led by professionals from local higher education institutions and the art community.

HOW TO CONTACT THE DIALOGUE INSTITUTE DALLAS

1416 E. Collins Blvd. Richardson, TX 75081

Phone: 646-251-8401

Contact Person: Selman Aktas, Program Coordinator, Beril Beril, Director

Email: dallas@thedialoginstitute.org, b.berk@thedialoginstitute.org

Web: www.artcontestdfw.org

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!