



Penrith Performing & Visual Arts
Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre
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PENRITH YOUTH ART PRIZE

Penrith Youth Art Prize returns in 2026 to foster and celebrate the creative talent of young artists in our community. Artists aged 5–18 are invited to create an artwork that responds to the theme 'transformation'.

There are two age categories:

- Primary 5–12 year olds
- Secondary 12–18 year olds

Theme

This year's theme, 'transformation', invites young artists to explore change — how things shift, grow, and evolve over time. The theme is inspired by the story of the Gallery and its transformation: from the home and studio of artists Margo and Gerald Lewers to a place of creativity for the local community.

Artists are encouraged to reflect on transformation in their own worlds — in people, places, objects, or ideas. How do things change while still holding on to what they once were? What remains, and what is renewed?

For schools

We welcome entries from schools however, due to numbers, we strongly encourage you to first run your own internal competition then submit only your top works (up to 10) into the Penrith Youth Art Competition.

Judging

The competition will be judged by the Gallery's Curator, Joanna Gilmour, and Learning Coordinator, Gemma McKenzie-Booth, based on merit, originality, and artistic interpretation of the theme. Finalists from each category will be exhibited at the Gallery and online at www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au. Runners up will also have their works displayed online and in a slideshow at the Gallery. One winner and two highly commended artworks will be chosen in each category.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to one winner and two highly commended artists from each age category.

- \$200 art material voucher – category winners

- \$100 art material voucher – highly commended

Your artwork

- One artwork only per entrant.
- Artists are encouraged to use any two-dimensional medium of their choice, pencil, pen, pastel, ink, marker, watercolour, paint, natural dye, photography, collage, or a combination of media.
- Can be vertical or horizontal.
- 2D works must be A4 (210 x 297 mm) or A3 (420 x 297 mm) and no thicker than 1cm.
- 3D works must not exceed 30cm in any dimension.
- Should be clearly labelled on the back with which way it should be displayed, along with your name, age category, and contact details. Make sure this doesn't show through to the front.

How to enter

- Complete an entry form online using this [link for the general public](#) or this [link for schools](#). If you are having difficulty with the online form, our staff at reception can help you.
- Your artwork should be provided flat, not folded or rolled.
- Artworks can be collected from the Gallery at the conclusion of the competition. If you wish your artwork returned via post, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope of the correct size.
- Entries can be hand delivered to Penrith Regional Gallery, 86 River Road Emu Plains 2750 or mailed to: Youth Art Competition, Penrith Regional Gallery, 86 River Road, Emu Plain 2750.
- Please take any packing materials with you when delivering your artwork. The Gallery is unable to store packing materials.

Key dates

- Competition opens Monday 20 April 2026
- Entries must be received by Monday 9 June 2026
- Entries will be displayed 27 June – 9 September 2026.
- Finalists and winners will be notified by Friday 19 June 2026.

PENRITH YOUTH ART PRIZE TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Information on how to enter (above) forms part of the terms and conditions of entry. Entry into the competition is deemed acceptance of these terms and conditions.
2. The promoter is Lewers: Penrith Regional Gallery, ABN 97 003 605 089, 86 River Road Emu Plains 2750.
3. Entry is open to all permanent residents of Australia who live in Penrith or have connection to Penrith and the Gallery. Employees of Lewers: Penrith Regional Gallery and their immediate families are ineligible to enter the competition. Immediate family means any of the following: child, stepchild, grandchild, niece, nephew, sibling, stepsibling or first cousin.

4. The competition commences at 9am 20 April 2026 and closes at 5pm 9 June 2026
5. Entries are limited to one artwork per entrant. Entrants found in breach of this limit will forfeit their right to compete. The artwork submitted must be the original work of the entrant themselves and not infringe the copyright, moral rights or other rights of any third party. Artworks that are deemed to not belong to or be created by the entrant will NOT be eligible.
6. Judging will take place between 12 – 19 June 2025 at Lewers: Penrith Regional Gallery.
7. The competition is a game of skill and chance plays no part in the selection of the winners. Submissions will be judged by Curator Collections, Joanna Gilmour and Learning Coordinator, Gemma Mckenzie-Booth according to the following criteria:
 - a. The relevance of the submitted artwork to the theme in question, as decided by our judges.
 - b. Artistic interpretation of the theme, as decided by our judges.
 - c. Originality of the submission. Entries that are deemed to not belong to or be created by the user will not be eligible.
8. Judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
9. Use of artworks and images
 - a. By entering the competition and accepting the terms and conditions, entrants (including winners, finalists and highly commended entrants) give Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of the Lewers Bequest non-exclusive rights to reproduce their artwork in material form, to photograph, publish and/or communicate it to the public for the following competition-related purposes, and anything incidental to such purposes, by the Gallery, competition partners and sponsors: marketing, publicity, educational and publication uses for the Gallery, the competition and its exhibition in all media, including but not limited to electronic/digital, broadcasting and print media, in perpetuity.
 - b. Permission to so reproduce the work must be conveyed by the entrant to any purchaser of the work.
 - c. Where reasonable, the Gallery will attribute the artists as the author of the work and reproduce the work in full. Details of the work may be used at the Gallery's discretion.
 - d. Entrants (including winners, finalists and highly commended entrants) will not be entitled to any fee for such use.
10. Use of personal information:
 - a. By entering the competition and accepting the terms and conditions, you agree Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of the Lewers Bequest may use your personal details for the purpose of conducting the competition.
 - b. By entering the competition, you give Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of the Lewers Bequest permission to contact you if you are a finalist in the competition.
11. The promoter reserves the right to request finalists to provide proof of identity and winners to provide proof of residency at the nominated prize delivery address. Identification considered suitable for verification is at the discretion of the promoter.

12. The promoter shall not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever which is suffered (including but not limited to direct or consequential loss) or for any personal injury suffered or sustained in connection with any prize/s, except for any liability which cannot be excluded by law.
13. The promoter can take no responsibility for any loss or damage to an artwork entry while in its custody or in transit.
14. All artworks must be collected from the Gallery between 12 September and 12 October 2026. After 12 October 2026, the Gallery may destroy or otherwise dispose of or repurpose any other entry (including those of finalists and winners) in any manner it deems fit and shall be under no liability whatsoever to the entrant in respect of the artwork so destroyed or disposed of.
15. Prizes are as follows: prizes will be awarded to one winner and two highly commended artists from each age category. \$200 vouchers for art supplies will be awarded to the primary and secondary category winners. \$100 vouchers will be provided for highly commended artists from the primary and secondary categories. Prizes cannot be transferred. Non-cash prizes cannot be redeemed for cash. In the event that for any reason whatsoever a finalist/winner does not take an element of the prize at the time stipulated by the Gallery then that element of the prize will be forfeited by the finalist/winner and cash will not be awarded in lieu of that element of the prize. The Gallery shall endeavour to contact the finalists by phone or email within one week of the prize judging. In the event that a winner cannot be contacted by 30 June 2026, the prize will be forfeited by the winner.