

Preparing for VASE Events

A Guide to Following VASE Rules & Policies

(does NOT replace reading &
understanding the Rules &
Policies documents)



Originality

Artwork must be original in composition and content.

Not allowed in any medium:

- *Copying or reproducing:*
 - *Published images*
 - *AI-generated images*
 - *Photographs not taken or directed by the student*
 - *Album/CD/DVD covers*
 - *How-to book or web images*
 - *Magazine, newspaper, etc., imagery*
 - *Images from Art History*
- **Artwork including any licensed character is strictly prohibited.**



Originality

Resources and References (not for TEAM):

- ***MUST be compiled as a Reference PDF and uploaded***
- ***Including:***
 - ***Student-taken photographs***
 - ***Student-directed photographs (see rules)***
 - ***Student sketches***
 - ***Acceptable family photos (see rules)***
 - ***Student notes and/or reflections for images created from imagination or observation***



Photographic entries use production notes or contact sheets.

Originality

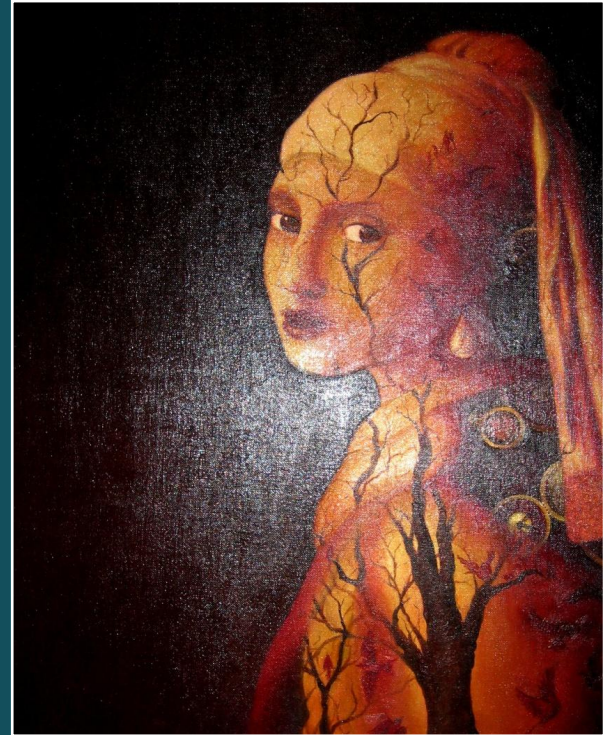
No one other than the student submitting the artwork can perform work on the entry; this includes parents, teachers / sponsors, private instructors, mentors, and other collaborators.

All entries must be created solely and exclusively by the student.

*If a parent, teacher, family member, friend or fellow student draws, paints, sculpts, edits or otherwise produces or embellishes the artwork, **it cannot be entered in a VASE event.***

Originality and Sources

Use of part or whole images from art history is not acceptable.



Originality and Sources

*Students may not copy a published photograph.
Use of professional, published and/or copyrighted photographs
of celebrities are not acceptable, even as part of a collage.*



Originality and Sources

Here are some examples of collages that could be VASE-compliant.

*These images are from an internet search, made by non-VASE artists. **They are not VASE entries but could be according to our rules & policies about collage image use.***

Since these are not already part of the VASE website, covered by permissions on Artwork Release Forms, you may show them to students, but please do not publish them anywhere yourself.

DO NOT tell your students that these were VASE entries.
They are internet images provided for educational use only.

Originality and Sources: Collage Examples

THE BOY IS FROM WHAT
COULD BE AN HISTORIC
FAMILY PHOTO.

HE WAS TAKEN OUT OF
THE ORIGINAL
COMPOSITION.

THE REST IS CUT FROM
MAGAZINE OR ARTIST-
PAINTED/DRAWN MATERIAL.

THEY ARE TEXTURE, NOT
RECOGNIZABLE IMAGES.



THE WOMAN'S FACE, EARS,
NECK, AND HANDS WERE
DRAWN/PAINTED BY THE
ARTIST.

THE APPLE, HAIR, AND
BACKGROUND WERE
CONSTRUCTED FROM CUT
PIECES EITHER FROM A
MAGAZINE OR OTHER
TEXTURAL SOURCE
MATERIAL.



Originality and Sources: Collage Examples

THIS CAT WAS
CREATED FROM PIECES
CUT FROM MAGAZINES
OR OTHER SIMILAR
MATERIAL.

NO PIECES WERE USED
IN THEIR
RECOGNIZABLE
PUBLISHED FORM, NOT
EVEN THE EYES OR
NOSE.

THE WORD
FRAGMENTS ARE OK.



THIS ENTIRE IMAGE
WAS CONSTRUCTED
FROM CUT PIECES
EITHER FROM A
MAGAZINE OR
OTHER TEXTURAL
SOURCE MATERIAL.

NO PIECES WERE
USED IN THEIR
RECOGNIZABLE
FORM FROM A
PUBLICATION.



Originality and Sources: Collage Examples

THIS WAS CREATED
FROM PIECES CUT
FROM MAGAZINES OR
OTHER SIMILAR
MATERIAL.

NO PIECES WERE USED
IN THEIR
RECOGNIZABLE
PUBLISHED FORM.

THE BIRDS WERE
CREATED BY THE
ARTIST; OTHER ARTIST-
PAINTED DETAILS WERE
ADDED, TOO.

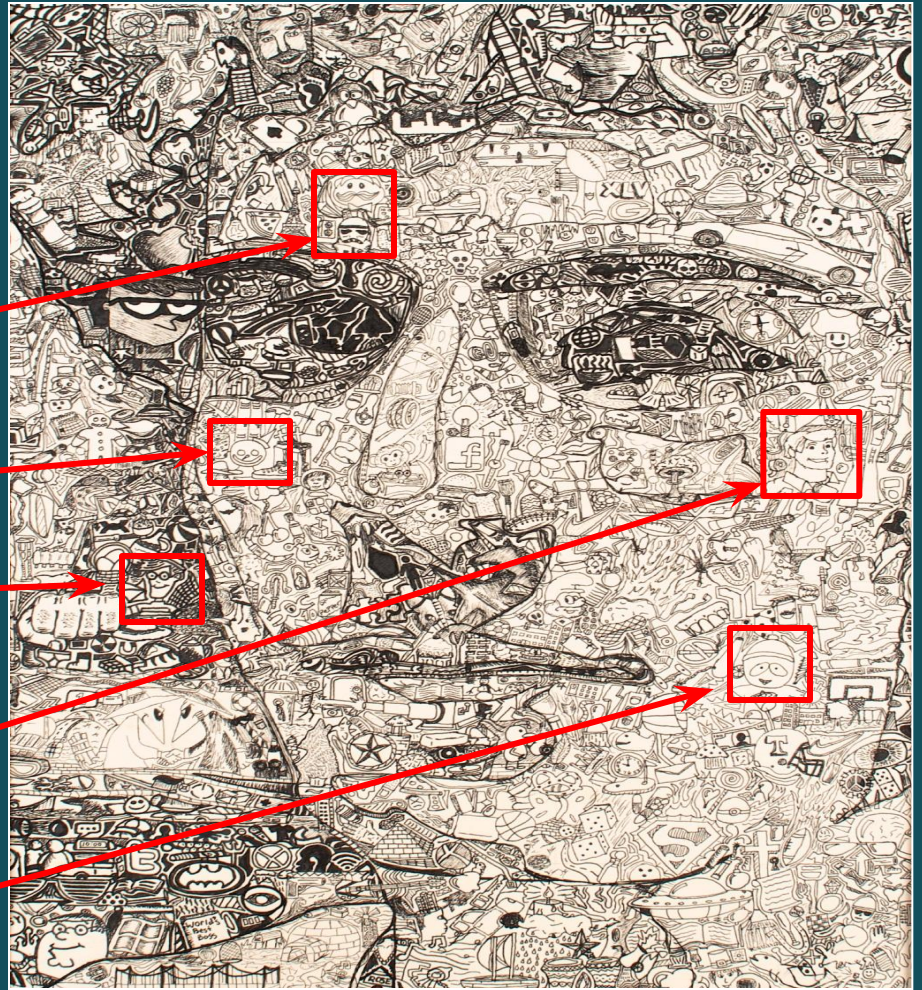


THIS WAS
CREATED FROM
PIECES CUT
FROM TEXTURED
PAPER AND
ARTIST-PAINTED
CUT PIECES.



Originality and Sources

Use of licensed characters in a student artwork is not acceptable.



Originality and Sources

Students may copy a photograph as long as it is a photograph taken by the student artist or is student-directed.

Student-Directed means that the student is included in the photo.

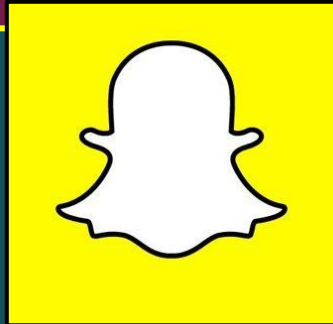


Originality and Sources

*Students may not directly copy a photo enhanced by an app
(ie: Snapchat, Prisma, etc.).*

*Artwork must incorporate original creative elements in
addition to an app-enhanced reference.*

***The original photo PLUS an image after the app-enhanced
image MUST be included in the Reference PDF for
comparison.***

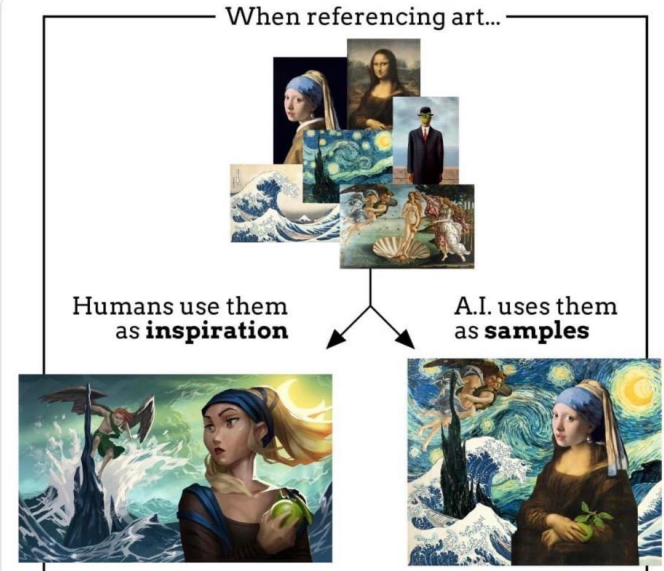


Originality and Sources

Images generated by AI (artificial intelligence) apps cannot be used in part or whole at any stage in the development of a work of art intended to be entered in any VASE program level. AI tools scan other artists' works for their style and subject matter; use of such images constitute plagiarism and do not abide by the VASE artwork originality rule.

On the topic of [#Alart](#): a common defense for AI is that it learns from other art in the same way humans do, therefore it's not theft.

So I wanted to try to illustrate how that's not accurate.



Without references, humans can still visualize ideas, but A.I. cannot.

Both benefit from references, but A.I. **depends** on them.

A.I. doesn't "learn" from art, it manipulates art beyond recognition as a deception to appear new.

Without **consent** or **compensation** to the original artists, A.I. art is theft.

Originality and Sources

Students may use a photograph that is part of their family & cultural history as long as it is not simply a replication of the family photo.

Original creative content must be added.



Originality and Sources

*Use of a consumer product with a logo is acceptable.
Companies consider it free advertising.*



Originality and Sources

*Use of consumer products in a still life are acceptable as long as the image does **NOT** contain a licensed character.*



OK



NOT OK



Originality and Sources

*Using a commercial product as surface for 2D work, drawing, painting, etc., is acceptable, as long as it does **NOT** contain a licensed character.*



Originality and Sources

*Use of consumer products in 3D artworks is acceptable, as long as there is **NO licensed character** included.*



Originality & Qualifications

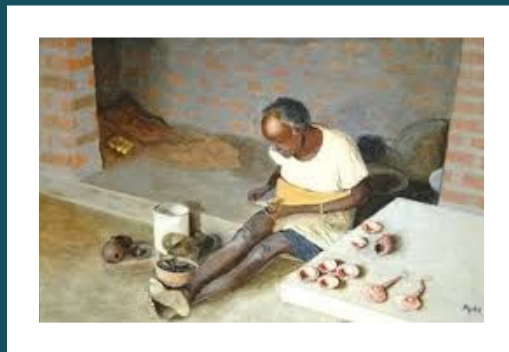
Image recognition software will be used to search questionable sources.



Artwork Production

- *Artwork may not be entered if previously entered in another VASE, Junior VASE, or TEAM event.*
- *Artwork must be completed after previous year's regional event.*
- *The student artist is responsible for securing direct permission from any model who poses or whose image is utilized within their artwork.*

A separate model release form is NOT necessary. Release is included in the VASE Program Artwork Agreement.



Offensive Works of Art

Prohibited content:

- *No profane references to a deity.*
- *No obscene language.*
- *No hate language or symbols.*
- *No drug use of any kind or drug paraphernalia.*
- *No images of suicide, self-harm, or criminal violence.*
- *No suggested or explicit sexuality.*
- *No genitalia or exposed female breasts.*
- *No inappropriate subject matter for young adults.*
- *No content that is discriminatory toward any race, ethnicity, religion, culture, disability or gender/identity.*
- *No content that offends the moral standards of the community.*

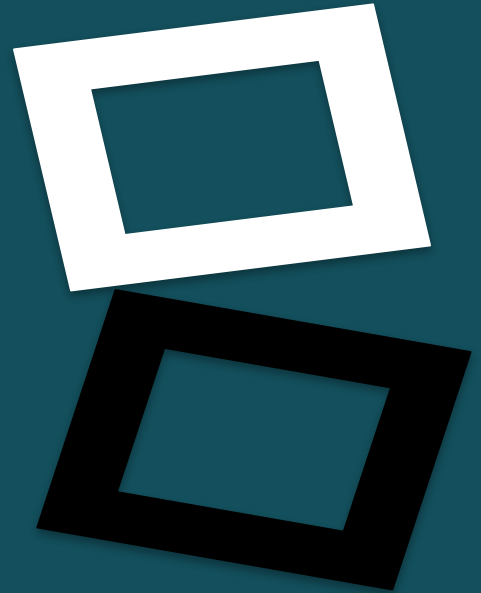
A PRINCIPAL MUST REVIEW ALL ENTRIES BEFORE SIGNING THE

Regional Entry Certification Form.



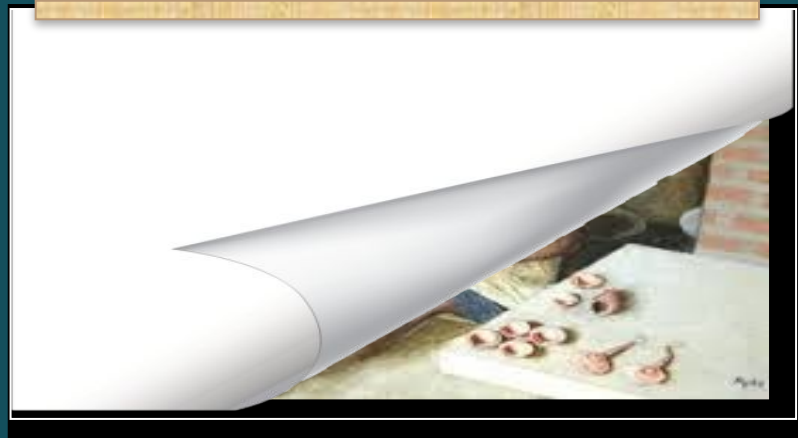
Specifications of 2D Artwork

- *No larger than 24" X 36" including mat*
- *May not exceed 50 pounds*
- *No glass/acetate or frames unless they are student-constructed, and part of the artwork*
- *2D artworks must be matted or mounted*
 - *Black or white mats*
 - *No liners*
 - *Supportive backing required*
- *Textiles, canvas paintings and shaped canvases do not require a mat.*



Specifications of 2D Artwork

- *No frames, glass coverings, or acetate (unless student-constructed and part of the artwork composition).*
- *All media must be dried or fixed.*
- *Pack heavy or fragile entries in a box. Use 3D Artwork Packing Box instructions.*
- *Must have a fitted protective fold-over/flap cover.*



Specifications of 2D Artwork

Artwork made with pastels, charcoal, and any other media that smears must be protected (sprayed) with a fixative.



Specifications of 2D Artwork

Assemblages or installations may--

- *Include student constructed frames.*
- *Make use of glass, acetate, wire mesh or other hardware.*



Identifying Classifications

Students may enter artwork as either 2D or 3D. It is at the student's discretion, with teacher advice, which classification to choose. There is no DQ risk; however, jurors might choose to evaluate 3D artworks based on an assumption that the student should have constructed / assembled the 3D form.

Teachers should discuss which classification would be the best for the artwork, especially if a traditional 2D media is used on a ready-made object (ex: shoes, musical instruments), which is NOT constructed by the student.

2D includes:

Drawing
Painting
Printmaking
Digital Media
Interactive Media
Photography
Textiles
Mixed Media



3D includes:

Sculpture

Ceramics

Jewelry

Metals

Mixed Media

Photography

Digital Media

Interactive Media



Digital Media & Photography

2D Presentation:

- *Printed artwork must be no larger than 24" x 36" including mat.*
- *Prints must be matted or mounted with black or white mat or presentation board, and must also include supportive board backing.*
- *Foam board flush mounting is allowed.*

3D Presentation: *Digital Media & Photography presented in a 3D format must follow 3D presentation rules.*



Animation & Interactive Media

These are entries that can only be viewed with computer / tablet, and / or have an interactive function.

Animation Guidelines: 5 minutes maximum

- *Group work is not accepted in VASE.*
- *DVD, jump/flash/thumb drive, or external hard drive is included in envelope. One backup entry per device.*
- *In cases of proprietary or unusual format viewing needs, students must provide the means to view the work (laptop or tablet).*

Interactive media: *Video backup can be presented on DVD, jump/flash/thumb drive, or external hard drive, besides entering URL (30-min max video).*



Video files must be housed on a safe platform like private YouTube, and the URL must be entered on the Online Intent Form.

Animation & Interactive Media

Animation & Interactive/Functioning Media Guidelines:

- *Entries must be submitted separately on a DVD, or External Device (in the envelope).*
- *No longer than 5 minutes for Animation, 30 seconds for Interactive/Functioning videos.*
- *External device must be ready for judging at the time of the event in case of URL failure.*
- *Accompanied by 1 to 4 still images, no larger than 8.5"x11", for reference (in envelope).*
- *One 8x5x11" image MUST be matted for display. Size of printout plus mat should be at least 11x14", black/white mat only. (These two yellow points are for Animations, not Int./Func.)*
- *Filmmaking/animation projects that include live actors are not allowed.*
- *A word-processed document with operating instructions should be included with each Interactive/Functioning media entry (in the envelope).*
- *These entries will have a QR sticker to be attached to Animation matted stills (front, lower left), and to the sturdy backing attached to Interactive/Functioning Artwork ID Forms.*

Sound Guidelines:

- *Original sounds and music should be used whenever possible.*
- *Use of Copyrighted musical works/sound is limited to 10% of the original work, but no more than 30 seconds. Only one copyrighted song/sound per "album" is allowed.*

Animation & Interactive Media (packaging)

*DVD or portable storage device must be put in a padded 9" x 12" envelope with copy of **Artwork ID Form** and copy of **one still image** attached to outside of envelope.*

Inside envelope:

1. *Entry media (DVD or external device)*
2. *1-4 still images*
3. *Operating instructions for Interactive Media entries (URL video recommended)*

Animation envelope must also be accompanied by one matted still image (refer to rules). QR sticker goes on mat.





**Artwork ID form
(QR sticker is on matted still
/ sturdy Artwork ID backing
for 3D).**

Documents Attached: *Artwork ID Form ONLY*

- *Print & attach **Artwork ID Form** to the back of 2D entry.*
- *Print & attach the form with string as directed to 3D entry.*
- *Print & attach the form to the padded envelope as directed for Animation and Interactive Media (required still shots & thumb drive inside).*

Duplicate copy of the Artwork ID Form attached to all packing boxes, with a 5" x 7" minimum photo of the artwork.

- *This applies to all 3D entries and 2D that is fragile or relief.*

| TAEA Region # 93 |  Texas Art Education Association Visual Art Scholastic Event  Student Intent and Artwork Identification Form <i>(place JRF sticker here)</i> | Division 2 | Entry ID 326050 For Office Use Only | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|---------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Name of Participant</th><th>2D / 3D</th><th>AP / Dual / Studio</th><th>Credits</th><th>Animation / Interactive / Functioning Entry Video URL:</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Name, Student</td><td>2D</td><td>N</td><td>1.5</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> | | | | Name of Participant | 2D / 3D | AP / Dual / Studio | Credits | Animation / Interactive / Functioning Entry Video URL: | Name, Student | 2D | N | 1.5 | | | |
| Name of Participant | 2D / 3D | AP / Dual / Studio | Credits | Animation / Interactive / Functioning Entry Video URL: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name, Student | 2D | N | 1.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"><tbody><tr><td>Teacher / Sponsor:</td><td>Teacher Name</td><td>School:</td><td>Anywhere High School</td></tr><tr><td>TAEA Membership #:</td><td>12345</td><td>School District:</td><td>ANYWHERE ISD</td></tr><tr><td>Artwork Title:</td><td>I Am a Unique Creative Title</td><td>Artwork Size (W x H):</td><td>16 in. x 20 in.</td></tr></tbody></table> | | | | Teacher / Sponsor: | Teacher Name | School: | Anywhere High School | TAEA Membership #: | 12345 | School District: | ANYWHERE ISD | Artwork Title: | I Am a Unique Creative Title | Artwork Size (W x H): | 16 in. x 20 in. |
| Teacher / Sponsor: | Teacher Name | School: | Anywhere High School | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAEA Membership #: | 12345 | School District: | ANYWHERE ISD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Artwork Title: | I Am a Unique Creative Title | Artwork Size (W x H): | 16 in. x 20 in. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Back of 2D Artwork

- *Supportive backing*
- ***Artwork ID Form***

Label (optional)

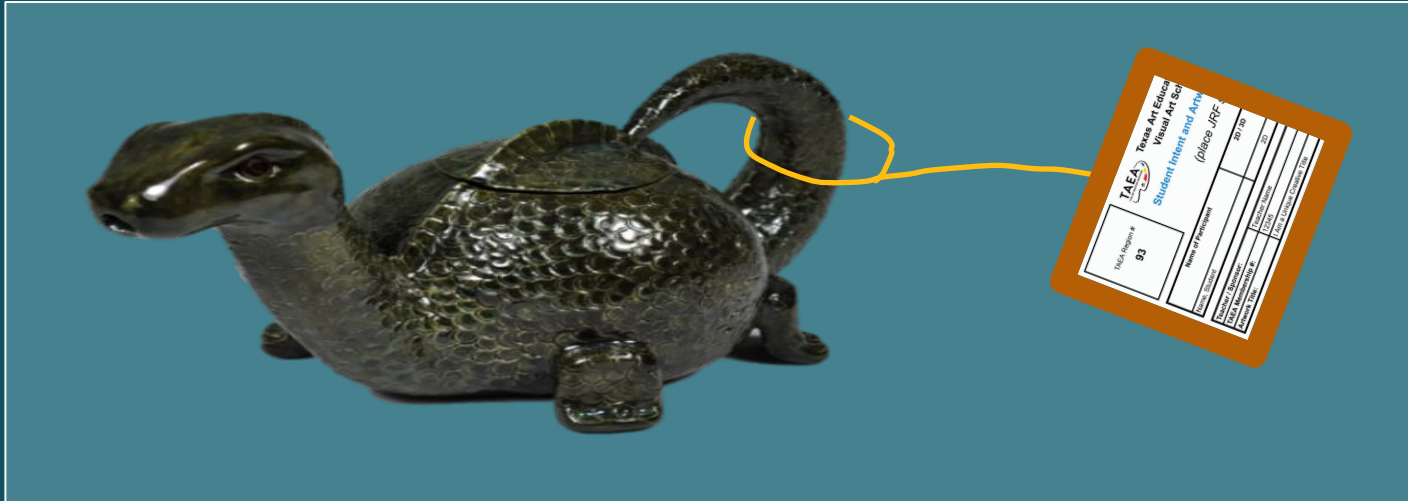
- *District*
- *School*
- *Teacher*
- *Student*

| School Teacher Student | | | District | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| TAEA Region # 93 | | TAEA Texas Art Education Association Visual Art Scholastic Event Student Intent and Artwork Identification Form (place JRF sticker here) | | Division 2 | Entry ID 326050 For Office Use Only |
| Name of Participant | | 2D / 3D | AP / Dual / Studio | Credits | Animation / Interactive / Functioning Entry Video URL: |
| Name: Student | | 2D | N | 1.5 | |
| Teacher / Sponsor: | Teacher Name | School: | Anywhere High School | | |
| TAEA Membership #: | 12345 | School District: | ANYWHERE ISD | | |
| Artwork Title: | I Am a Unique Creative Title | Artwork Size (W x H): | 16 in. x 20 in. | | |

3D Documents

Attach to all 3D Artworks securely-

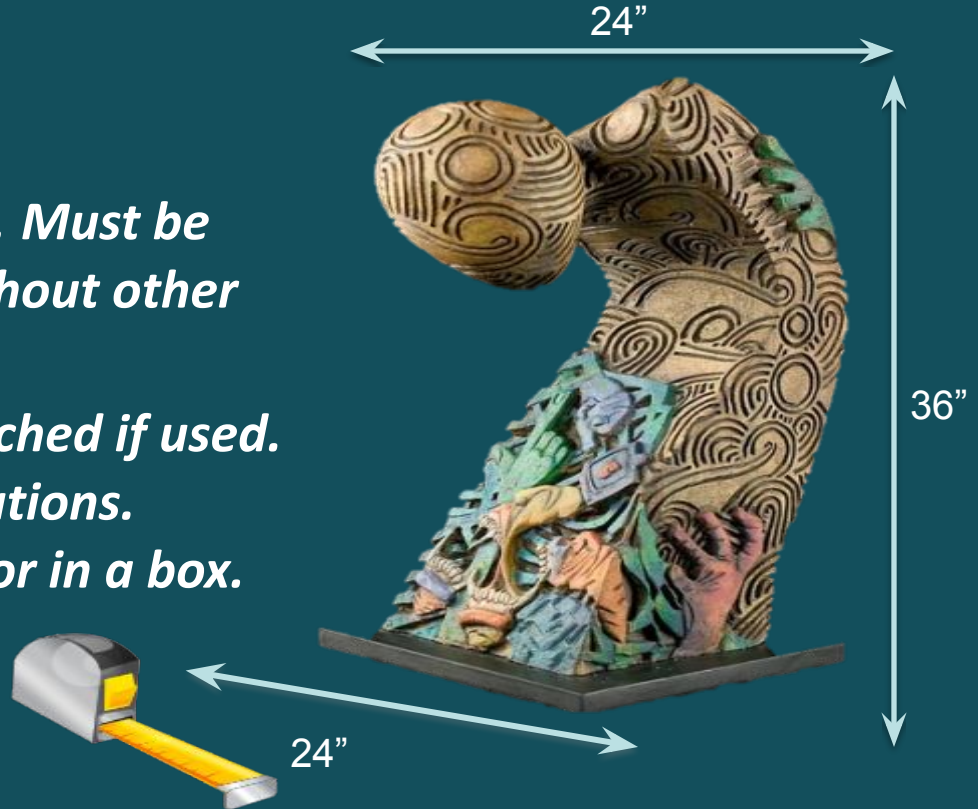
- **Artwork ID Form:** Fold, attach form to a firm board and tie securely to sculpture.
- This is where QR stickers go for Interactive/Functioning artworks.



Specifications of 3D Artwork

No larger than 24" X 24" X 36".

- *Including the base.*
- *In either direction.*
- *May not exceed 50 pounds. Must be sturdy and stand alone without other means of support.*
- *Base must be securely attached if used.*
- *Students will set up installations.*
- *Must be transported to juror in a box.*



3D Artwork Packing Box

Attach to box-

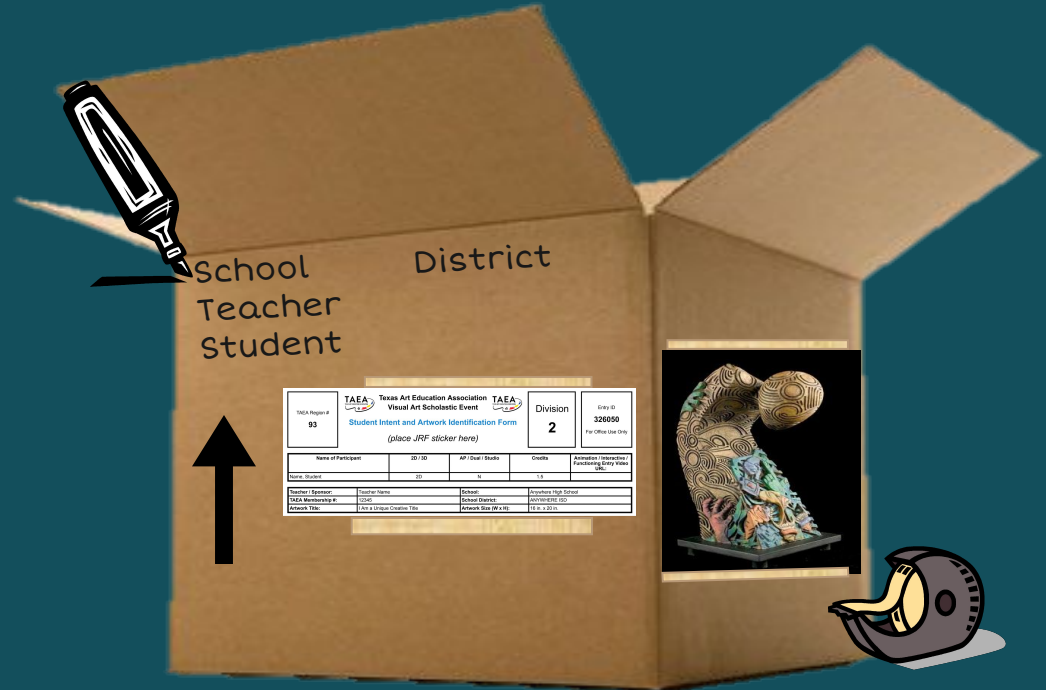
- **Artwork ID Form**
- 5 X 7" photo of artwork

Pack in a sturdy box-

- Adequate packing material
- Plastic tub OK

Label on box (suggested)-

- District
- School
- Teacher
- Student
- Directional arrow



Protecting Artworks

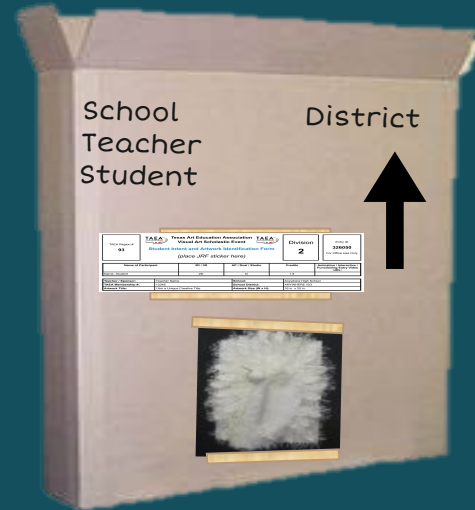
Boxes must be enclosed and made of corrugated cardboard or wood (plastic tub is OK). Packing material adequate for shipping must be included (no packing peanuts or shreds).

The box pictured here is not suitable for shipping and is, therefore, not acceptable.



Protecting Artworks

2D works with relief, parts protruding from the surface, or are fragile, must also have an appropriate box with packing materials.



*Box must also have copy of **Artwork ID Form** and 5x7" photo of the artwork on the outside.*

VASE Divisions

Important to keep in mind! Percentages are NEW info for HS VASE.

- *Ten percent (10%) of top-rated artworks in each division at Regional JR VASE and Regional TEAM will be named JR VASE Platinum and Top of TEAM.*
- *In HS VASE, **ten percent (10%)** of the **Divisions 3 & 4** works receiving a rating 4, and **eight percent (8%)** of the **Divisions 1 & 2** works receiving a rating 4, may advance to State HS VASE (**new percentage change for 2026**).*
- ***Artwork must be entered in the correct Division in order to be approved in Qualifications.***
- *Artwork must be juried for Area in the same Division in which it qualified.*
 - *The number of artworks advancing to State VASE in a division, or receiving Top of TEAM or Platinum, will be affected if a teacher enters artwork in the wrong Division.*
 - *In other words, an entry might be kept from advancing because another entry was inadvertently placed in the wrong Division, and then removed.*

High School VASE Divisions

When determining which division to place a student's artwork-

- *Number of credits the student has earned in High School art classes by February 1st of that year's event.*
- *If two entries are submitted by the same student, they **MUST** be entered in the same division regardless of the course level.*

EX: If students have 2 entries, and 3 total credits, they must be listed as Div. 3 for both pieces. However, if students have 2 credits, and are taking outside private lessons, they must be entered in Div. 4 no matter what HS class they are enrolled in.

Division 1 - 0 - 1 Credits

Division 2 - 1.5 - 2 Credits

Division 3 - 2.5 - 3 Credits

Division 4 - 3.5 or more Credits

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| TAEA Region # 5 | | Texas Art Education Association Visual Art Scholastic Event | | | | Entry ID 238 For Office Use Only | |
| Student Intent and Artwork Identification Form | | | | | | | |
| Name of Participant | 2D / 3D | Classification | Media | Private Lessons | Credits | Division | |
| Day, Sunny | 2D | Painting | Acrylic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 4 | |
| Teacher / Sponsor: | | Joey Doyle | | School: | | Macarthur High School | |
| TAEA Membership #: | | 12345 | | School District: | | JASPER ISD | |
| Title / Description: | | Test 2 | | | | | |

Students enrolled in regular lessons with a Private Art Instructor/School outside of the school art class are entered in Division 4 regardless of credit count. This rule changed for 2026 (AP and Dual Credit now is entered in a division strictly by credit count).

Junior VASE Divisions

When determining which division to place students' artwork:

Division 1 – Enrolled in or completed one course in MS.

Division 2 – Enrolled in or completed two courses in MS.

Division 3 – Enrolled in or completed three courses in MS.

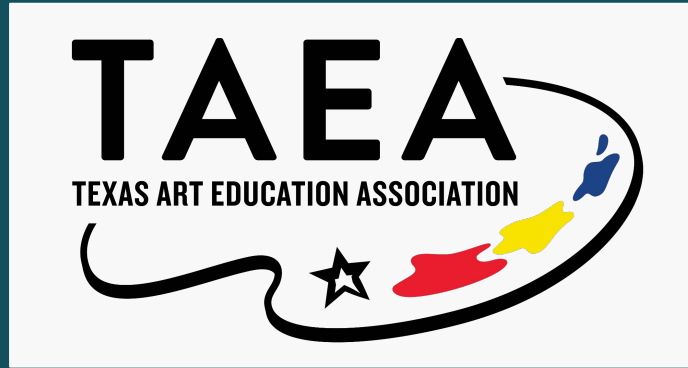
Division 4 has been removed from Junior VASE. It was designed for HS Art 1, but not all courses are equal, many do not require a prerequisite, and the credit will count when they enter HS VASE, putting them in Division 2 their first year.

Students who are not in an art class, earning an additional credit (only working with you in Art Club, etc.), MUST be moved up a Division each year (JV & HS).

Add an additional half or whole credit to their Entry Data to move them up a Division.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| TAEA Region # 5 | Texas Art Education Association Junior VASE | | | | | Entry ID 238 |
| Student Intent and Artwork Identification Form | | | | | | |
| For Office Use Only | | | | | | |
| Name of Participant | 2D / 3D | Classification | Media | AP / IB | Credits | Division |
| Day, Sunny | 2D | Painting | Acrylic | N | 3 | 3 |
| | | | | | | |
| Teacher / Sponsor: | Joey Doyle | | School: | Macarthur Intermediate School | | |
| TAEA Membership #: | 12345 | | School District: | JASPER ISD | | |
| Title / Description: | Test 2 | | | | | |

Teachers should be diligent in monitoring the conception and creation of student artworks.



Teachers may not enter works that violate ethical standards and copyright laws.

This presentation has been developed by the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) and is intended to be used as a training tool for teachers, sponsors, administrators, VASE, Junior VASE, and TEAM Directors, VASE Qualifications Team members, and VASE staff.

The content of this program is not intended to replace the VASE Rules and Policies established by TAEA and the VASE Blue Ribbon Committee. While TAEA will endeavor to keep the information current and correct, it is the teacher and/or sponsor's responsibility to ensure VASE rules and policies are adhered to.

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