

# ACCS Blakey Prize in Fine Arts: 2024 Contest Guidelines

## Student Merchandise Gallery



In addition to our traditional Drawing and Painting categories, the ACCS Student Merchandise Competition provides a way for student artists to create digital artwork for reproduction and sale through the ACCS. This enables the ACCS to feature the talent of our ACCS students by offering products that display their artwork to the broader ACCS community. Students will gain experience in making commercial art compliant with the demands of the production process, receive public exposure as artists, and share their work with a supportive audience.

1. High school students (grades 9–12) from ACCS schools will compete with their peers from other ACCS member schools in a national visual arts competition. Each school may enter one student's artwork in the Apparel category and one in the Stationery category.

Note: Schools may enter the same student in both categories. The same artwork may be used in both categories, provided the artwork is altered to fit the unique specifications of each category. The same applies to artwork which may also be entered into the Drawing or Painting categories.

For details for the current year's merchandise, please see **[ClassicalChristian.org/blakey-prize](https://ClassicalChristian.org/blakey-prize)**.

2. Each student must submit an original composition. Submitted works should show technical proficiency, demonstrate the integration of content with its intended purpose, and reflect principles of truth, goodness, and beauty.

Submitted works must follow the guidelines and incorporate the quotes and themes provided online for each category here: **[ClassicalChristian.org/blakey-prize](https://ClassicalChristian.org/blakey-prize)**.

Submitted works must be the student's work. Painted-over or traced prints are prohibited. The artwork may not be a copy, in whole or in part, of any other artist's work, even if the copied work is completed in a medium different from that used for the original piece.

If photographic references are used as the basis of any artwork, the artist must have either personally taken the photograph(s) or have the explicit permission of the photographer for

such derivative use. Working from photos found on the internet or in books or magazines must be avoided because of the significant potential for violating another's intellectual/creative rights. Students must not use photos found on Pinterest as the source for this work (HT Rockbridge Academy).

To protect ACCS, students MUST have written permission to use someone else's image. The best practice is to have the student take a photo of an item and use it as the source for their work.

Entries copied from images on Pinterest, etc., where the student does not have written permission, will be disqualified.

All work submitted must be an entirely original conception of the student artist. Although the ACCS recognizes the value of copying masterworks as an important part of the classical tradition in the visual arts, and we encourage students to do this as part of their training, submissions of masterwork copies are not accepted for this contest.

Topics must be appropriate for presentation at the annual conference. ACCS reserves the right to reject any work that is considered inappropriate.

3. Apparel and Stationery entries will be judged separately by category.

4. Artwork File Specifications:

**Apparel Art:**

**Image:** Must be original black and white line art (no shading).

**Style:** Can be hand drawn or created digitally. If hand drawn, use black or single color ink and submit as a clear photograph or scan.

**Format:** If sending a photo of artwork, please submit as a JPG or PNG. For digital files, transparent PNG is preferred. (If a vector file is available, please send as PDF or AI.) We may request additional images with different specifications.

**Resolution minimum:** 220-300 dpi (does not apply to vector files)

**Dimensions:** 9" square or round. (In pixels, a 9" x 9" image at 300dpi would be 2700px x 2700px.)

**Stationery Art:**

**Format:** JPG or JPEG. We may request additional images with different specifications.

**Resolution minimum:** at least 220 – 300 dpi

**Dimensions:** Any 4:3 or 3:4 ratio is acceptable. **Please note that the edges may be cropped depending on the product requirements.**

For reference, you can use the following size: 12" wide x 16" high for vertical (portrait) orientation **or** 16" wide x 12" high for horizontal (landscape) orientation. (In pixels, a 12" x 16" image at 300dpi would be 3600px x 4800px.)

Submissions will be emailed as an attached file. Students and judges acknowledge that there will be color variations across various computers.

If a digital font is used, the artist must supply the font name.

Specifications are also provided here: [ClassicalChristian.org/blakey-prize](https://ClassicalChristian.org/blakey-prize)

5. Contestants and submissions must meet all of these criteria:
  - a. At the time of the submission of their materials to ACCS, contestants must be high-school students enrolled full-time in an ACCS member school—and remain such through the end of the competition.
  - b. All presentations must be entirely the student's work and appropriate for display at the annual conference.
  - c. Each student must submit a written statement that describes how their artwork is suited to its intended purpose. They should also identify any artist(s) who have influenced their design and how this is reflected in their artwork.
  
6. Schools must submit entries to ACCS no later than **March 8, 2024**. Along with the electronic image, each school must submit the artwork submission form (see following page) which requires the head of school's signature, certifies that the student is in high school, that the image represents the student's work, and that if chosen ACCS has permission to display and sell the artwork on its intended medium. Submissions must be received on time to allow time for adjudication, notification, production, and shipping arrangements.
  
7. Entries will be evaluated by a panel made up of design and marketing professionals from the ACCS and ACCS member schools. Entries will be reviewed for:
  - Concept and originality of design
  - Excellence in the quality of drawing, craftsmanship, and execution
  - For apparel, visibility from a reasonable distance
  - Adherence to design and submission rules, guidelines, and specifications
  - Totality of design and production readiness
  - Successfully capturing the spirit of any provided quotes or themes, and the ACCS commitment to the classical approach — promoting truth, goodness and beauty in the light of a Christian worldview.
  
8. ACCS will share the link to view all submissions on or near **March 12, 2024** and selections will be complete within 48 hours.
  
10. The ranking committee will review the final rankings and make their selections by **March 15, 2024**.

11. Notification will be provided by ACCS to the winning contestants' designated school official no later than **March 18, 2024**. The designated school official agrees to act as the ACCS contact for any production related needs and issues.
12. Artwork will be offered for sale at the ACCS annual conference. It may also be offered online or at other events. Students are not required to attend the annual conference.
13. The grand prize winner in each category will receive a \$300.00 cash prize. The runner up winner in each category will receive a \$250.00 cash prize. Winners will also receive a copy of their item if it is used to produce a product.
14. **Publicity and Agreement:** Contest entry constitutes an agreement by the submitting students and schools to grant free license of all copyrights of the submitted works to the ACCS in perpetuity. The artwork image may be utilized at any time by ACCS. The student artist also maintains the right to use the image.

Media Release: By submitting artwork, you agree that the ACCS retains printing rights and a free license, in perpetuity, to utilize the design. You are guaranteeing that your design does not contain any copyrighted material, including images/copy found on the internet, unless clearly marked as published under a Creative Commons (cc) license.

View details here:  
[ClassicalChristian.org/blakey-prize](https://ClassicalChristian.org/blakey-prize)