

ArtEffect 2025 Student Art Competition

Category: [Multiple Disciplines](#)

Deadline: April 27, 2025

Website: graphiccompetitions.com



The ArtEffect Competition is an annual juried visual arts contest designed to engage and inspire students in grades 6-12 by inviting them to explore the lives of Unsung Heroes—individuals whose impactful contributions have often gone unnoticed in mainstream historical narratives. Students participating in the competition are tasked with creating original visual artworks accompanied by a carefully crafted Impact Statement of 500-1,000 words. This Impact Statement serves to articulate the hero's significance, the historical context of their actions, and the creative process behind the artwork, thereby fostering deeper critical thinking and historical understanding.

Through this unique initiative, the ArtEffect Competition aims to elevate visual literacy, encourage historical research, and ignite creativity among young artists. It challenges students to move beyond commonly known figures to uncover and illustrate the inspiring stories of lesser-known trailblazers, activists, innovators, and community leaders. The competition supports various mediums, including painting, drawing, digital art, photography, sculpture, mixed media, and more, providing a versatile platform for young artists to showcase their talents and creativity while amplifying diverse voices from history.

Hosted by the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes, the ArtEffect Competition offers students not only an opportunity for artistic expression but also substantial awards and national recognition. The initiative is committed to highlighting student artwork through public exhibitions, virtual galleries, and educational outreach programs, further extending the impact of student work and celebrating the legacy of Unsung Heroes. With free participation and generous awards totaling over \$25,000, the competition promotes equitable access, educational excellence, and encourages a lifelong appreciation for the intersection of history, art, and social impact.

There is no entry fee.

Eligibility

Open to all U.S. and international students in grades 6-12.

Prize

The competition offers over \$25,000 in awards, including a \$6,000 grand prize. Additional prizes include High School Best in Show (\$3,000), High School Second Place (\$2,000), Middle School Best in Show (\$2,000), and Middle School Second Place (\$1,000). Spotlight Prizes of \$1,000 each are also available for projects focusing on specific Unsung Heroes.
