

BMO 1ST ART! 2022
Sponsored by BMO Financial Group

1ST ART! FAST FACTS

(Please see #1 - 7 below for details)

PROFILE

A national invitational student art competition awarding 13 regional prizes of \$7,500 and 1 national prize of \$15,000. Educational institutions may invite three eligible students from each visual art specialty to participate.

WHO

Post-secondary, undergraduate level visual arts students who have been nominated by their schools and are expected to graduate in 2022 are eligible.

WHAT

Drawings, prints, photography, painting, mixed media, and three-dimensional works in textiles, plastics, stone, metal, glass, ceramics, leather, fur, beadwork, and wood. Time-based media including video, film, slide, audio, and computer technologies. 2D works should not exceed 100 in (ca. 254 cm) in height or width; 3D works, including installations, should not exceed 80 in (ca. 203 cm) in height, width or depth.

HOW

Complete the 1st Art! Submission Form, and include the artist statement, description of submission, and photographs of the submission in the specified format. Video and audio support materials should be submitted via VIMEO (<https://vimeo.com>). These files should remain live until July 31, 2022.

WHERE

Send your submission materials to 1st.Art@bmo.com

WHEN

Submission deadline is **May 15, 2022**.

**COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

1. WHAT IS THE BMO 1ST ART! COMPETITION?

BMO 1st Art! celebrates exceptional achievements by studio arts students in each province and territory in the country.

Canadian institutions offering post-secondary, undergraduate level diploma, certificate, or degree programs with a studio arts focus are asked to select three students in the last phase or year of their programs to complete a Submission Form and provide digital images of a recent work of art (see other details below, question #3). Institutions offering more than one studio arts program may select three students from each program: for example, if an institution offers both a BFA degree in studio art as well as a diploma in Graphic Arts or Visual Studies, it may select six students to apply, three from each program. Similarly, if institutions offer specialty programs in different media, for example, Photography, Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, etc., three students from each program may be selected to make submissions to BMO 1st Art!

One successful student from every province and territory – potentially 13 in all - will be awarded \$7,500. A national winner will also be selected from the entrants, receiving an award of \$15,000. Monies must be accepted as awarded and may not be transferred or assigned.

In addition to their awards, each winner is given an all-expenses paid trip to Toronto to attend the opening reception of the 1st Art! Exhibition (see below, question #5). BMO will ship all of the winning works to Toronto for the 1st Art! Exhibition, and the works will be returned after the exhibition, unless other arrangements are made between BMO and the artists.

2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Students who have been selected by the Deans, Instructors or Administrators of their institutions, and who are expected to graduate from their studio-based programs in 2022 are eligible to enter BMO 1st Art! Students may be enrolled in a college, art school, cégep, or university. The competition is open to part-time as well as full-time students at the post-secondary, undergraduate level: MA or PhD students are not eligible. Candidates are only eligible to enter the competition once.

Promotional agencies and employees of BMO Financial Group, their families and persons with whom they are domiciled are not eligible for this competition.

3. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE?

Those students invited by their Deans, Instructors, or Administrators to enter the competition must send their completed 1st Art! Submission Form with the required materials to BMO 1st Art!, by **May 15, 2022** (see address below, question #6).

THE SUBMISSION MATERIALS ARE:

1. Completed submission form that includes a complete description of the piece being submitted, including title, media, size, duration as well as an artist statement of 100 - 250 words addressing your work in general and the submission in particular.
2. Digital images of the work being submitted should be attached as JPG files to your email and not exceed 3000 pixels in any direction with a maximum file size of 10MB. Using these specifications, please include an (1) image of the submitted work in its entirety, as well as (2) one detail image, and, if possible, (3) an image of the work installed on a wall, etc. Audio files may be submitted as MP3 files or included as a video to show the jury context. Do NOT use filesharing websites.
3. Videos are submitted through VIMEO and must remain live through to July 31st, 2022. Please provide a high resolution still image from the video that could be used to advertise your work, should it be selected as a winner.
4. Nomination sent by a representative of your educational institution by April 15, 2022, attesting to the year of graduation/completion of program of art studies. Your expected year of completion/graduation must be 2022 to be eligible for this year's competition. Students are only allowed to participate in the competition once upon graduating.

Application materials can also be downloaded from 1stArt.bmo.com

4. WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR ARTWORK SUBMISSIONS?

The artwork submitted by applicants must be a recent piece, produced within the past year. The following restrictions apply with regard to scale and media: acceptable (unframed) dimensions for 2D works should not exceed 100 in (ca. 254 cm) in height or width, 3D work dimensions should not exceed 80 in (ca. 203 cm) in height, width or depth. 2D media may be works on paper, canvas, textile, or board, including drawings, photography, prints (e.g., engravings, lithographs, mixed media, etc.), and painting (e.g., pastels, oils, acrylic, watercolours, mixed media, etc.), 3D works may include textiles, plastics, stone, metal, glass, ceramics, leather, fur, beadwork, and wood. At this time we are only able to accept documentation of performative, site specific works and pieces that exceed the size restrictions.

5. HOW AND WHEN ARE THE SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSIONS FOR BMO 1ST ART! DETERMINED? WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT?

The adjudication process will take place in July 2022. The four Selection Committee members include artists, curators, educators and gallery directors from eastern, western, and central Canada. The Selection Committee reviews the digital material submitted by the applicants, assesses the artwork in terms of artistic and technical merit, and selects one submission as the winner for each province and territory, in addition to selecting a national winner – potentially 14 awards in all if all provinces and territories send submissions.

The winners are contacted shortly after the judging takes place. An announcement naming the winners of BMO 1st Art! will be made in the fall of 2022. An exhibition of the winning submissions will be held in Toronto in the late fall of 2022 (details to be determined).

All decisions regarding this competition and the selection of successful submissions remain with BMO Financial Group and are final and without appeal. All submissions and competition materials become property of BMO Financial Group and none will be returned.

6. WHERE DO I SEND MY 1ST ART! SUBMISSION MATERIALS?

Submission Forms with requested materials, can be sent **any time before the deadline of May 15, 2022** to: 1st.Art@bmo.com

All materials, including digital images, may be submitted by email. Do NOT use filesharing websites. All images and support material should be clearly labelled with the candidate's name and school. Please contact BMO 1st Art! with any questions you may have about the submission process.

Submissions sent without a nomination, that are incomplete, illegible, damaged, or do not conform to or satisfy any condition of the Rules and Guidelines may be disqualified by BMO Financial Group or the Selection Committee. BMO Financial Group takes no responsibility for lost, misdirected, late or destroyed submissions, or for typographical or other production or distribution errors.

7. HOW WILL I KNOW IF I'VE WON?

BMO Financial Group will contact the successful applicants as soon as possible after the results are determined in July 2022, using the telephone number(s) and other data provided on their Submission Forms. Please note that the Submission Forms require all applicants to certify that their submission constitutes their own work and does not violate copyright laws including the reproduction or unauthorized use of music, text, images, etc. Applicants acknowledge and confirm compliance with the 1st Art! Rules and Guidelines, releasing BMO Financial Group and/or its advertising agencies without further compensation.