



ARIZONA GOURD SOCIETY'S GOURD ART COMPETITION 2023

at the Wuertz Gourd Farm's Annual "Running of the Gourds"
February 3-5, 2023 at the Pinal County Fairgrounds, Casa Grande, Arizona

Judging is held Thursday late afternoon, February 2, 2023

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Arizona Gourd Society's 2023 Gourd Art Competition held during the Wuertz Gourd Festival. We appreciate the work you have completed and your willingness to share your art. Your work will give pleasure and inspiration to the public and fellow gourd artists.

CONTACTS:

Competition Co-Chairs:

Karen Wollscheid, azgourdsoc@gmail.com, 480-431-3060

Julie Hemer, j_hemer@hotmail.com, 715-965-5016

Registration:

Karen Wollscheid, azgourdsoc@gmail.com, 480-431-3060

Grand Masters Chair:

Vicki McKenna, bvmckenna225@gmail.com

ENTRY FEES:

To qualify as an Arizona Gourd Society member, you must be a member as of January 31, 2023.

- Verify your membership status by emailing Karen at azgourdsoc@gmail.com.
- Visit www.arizonagourdsociety.org to join online or download a membership form to mail.

There is no entry fee for entries in the Youth, Collaborative, or Grand Master divisions, but an entry form is still required.

Pre-Registration is strongly recommended.

- REGISTER & PAY ONLINE: at <https://arizonagourdsociety.org>
- MAIL: Download the registration form from the website and mail with your check to address on the form
- ONSITE PAYMENT: We can only accept cash or checks

Pre-Registration – Received by January 25, 2023

Pre-registration is strongly recommended

Late Registration – January 26 to onsite February 5, 2023

NOTE: If paying late registration, please pay via the AZGS website by January 29th, or pay onsite when you arrive at the competition. Cash or checks only onsite.

Contents

Contacts, Entry Fees, Important Dates	1
Delivery & Pickup Instructions	2
General Rules of the Competition	3
Explanation of Scoring Values	4
Division Descriptions & Categories.....	5
Novice Division • Intermediate Division	
Advanced Division • Master Division	
Category Descriptions	6
Novice Division • Intermediate Division	
Advanced Division • Master Division	
Division Descriptions & Categories	7
Youth Division • Collaborative Division	
Display Only • Growers Division	
Grand Master Division	

	Fee Per Entry	
	AZGS Member	Non-Member
Pre-Registration – Received by January 25, 2023	\$10	\$15
Late Registration – January 26 to onsite February 5, 2023	\$20	\$25

DELIVERY / PICKUP OF ENTRIES

ON SITE DELIVERY - Thursday, February 2, 2023

We must receive your gourd entries at the Pinal Fairgrounds Competition Art Show building on February 2, 2023 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If there are EXCEPTIONAL extenuating circumstances, gourd entries will be accepted after 1:00 p.m., and until 1/2 hour before judging has commenced Thursday afternoon.

There will be volunteers to sign in the gourd art entries and place them in the proper area for judging. If the artist did not take advantage of pre-registration, there will be a separate line for registering the gourd art entry.

The artist will receive a claim ticket for each piece entered and will be required to have the ticket(s) in order to pick up the art at the end of the festival on Sunday.

SHIPPING

If you are unable to deliver your gourd art on February 2nd, you may ship your piece(s). It is strongly recommended that you pre-register so that we know a shipment is on its way. If you cannot use the website to register and submit your entry fees, print out the registration form and include it with your piece(s). Please email azgourdsoc@gmail.com to let us know you are shipping a package and its expected delivery date.

Your entry must be received no later than January 31, 2023.

Ship to: Karen Wollscheid, 10702 E Hercules Dr., Sun Lakes AZ 85248

AZGS and its representatives are not responsible for any damage caused during shipping. Insurance coverage is recommended. Please ensure that the gourds are packed carefully with ample protection.

- Take the box to the post office or shipping office that is preferred.
- After determining postal cost for one-way shipping, purchase two (2) shipping labels.
- Enclose the second postage label for return shipping inside the package with the gourds.
- Affix postage for shipping to the competition on the outside of the package.

ON SITE PICK-UP

You may pickup your entries after 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 5, to allow the public to enjoy the show the entire weekend. Anyone removing an entry before this time will not be allowed to enter the competition the following year.

We return all gourds on Sunday between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Access to the Competition Art Show Building is controlled, and we require claim tickets in exchange for the artwork. **If you are having someone else pick up an entry(s), make sure that person has the necessary claim ticket(s).** Any gourds not picked up by 4:00 p.m. will be donated to the Arizona Gourd Society.

ON SITE SECURITY

Arizona Gourd Society, Wuertz Farm, and Pinal County Fairgrounds will provide reasonable security measures, but will assume no responsibility for damage or theft of entries.

GENERAL RULES of the ARIZONA GOURD SOCIETY'S (AZGS) GOURD ART COMPETITION

1. AZGS will accept **one entry per person per category**.
2. Any gourd entered in a previous AZGS Gourd Art Competition may not be reentered in the current or any future AZGS competition.
3. Once an artist wins Best of Division in the AZGS competition, the artist moves up to the next division in the next competition.
4. If an artist won first place in a specific category last year, and the artist wishes to enter into the same category this year, the artist will be required to move up to the next division and enter into that same category, with the exception of the Masters Division and Collaboration, which are limited in mobility to their specific division.
5. If an artist won first place in a category last year but does not wish to enter the same category this year, that artist will not be required to move up to the next division.
6. An artist cannot have two entries in separate divisions for the same category, i.e., an entry in the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions both for the Carving category. A violation of this rule in this competition will result in the AZGS reclaiming any awards the artist may have received.
7. In fairness to each artist, every entry must reflect the skill level expected for that specific division of this competition. *Please be sure to read the criteria.*
8. If the receiving person at the competition and registration table observes that your entry does not reflect the skills expected in your requested division or does not reflect the technique specified for the division or category, that piece of art will be assigned to the appropriate division or category. If you disagree, you may withdraw the entry or agree to abide by the decision made by the Placement Review Committee, which is composed of three people who are knowledgeable and skilled in judging gourd art and in assigning art to the appropriate skill division and/or category.
9. No copyright infringement is allowed. We do not permit the depiction or uses of slogans, pictures, lyrics, songs etc. that can be attributed to a given product, and are not permitted as part of the presentation of gourd art. If any reference to a given product is inferred or depicted in any way, we will not judge the gourd piece.
10. We will not accept laser work and fractal burning on gourds into the gourd competition. If these techniques are on a gourd, but are peripheral, not predominant, the gourd may be entered and judged on the predominant technique, i.e., carving, pyrography.
11. All work on an entry must be the artist's original design. Unless otherwise stated for your division/category, you may not copy someone else's work, use a gourd from a class or workshop you attended, or use products such as pre-printed Stick N Burn or other patterns.
12. In addition to the original design, judges will base their scores on quality of craftsmanship, creativity and design, color, finish, accessories, decoration and the overall appeal/appropriateness to the category. **Entries must be comprised of at least 55% gourd, multiple gourds, or gourd pieces.** You are allowed, but not required, to include a brief note to explain or describe your entry. If you wish the information to be displayed to the public, the artist may provide the information on a card no larger than 5x7 inches and printed in a large font that is legible from 3-4 feet away. You may include a small stand to make the information easier to read.
13. If you would like to sell your entry(s), notify registration personnel at check-in, who will provide a 3x5 inch "For Sale" card. You must provide business cards with the price of the gourd on the back of the card, which will be placed beside your entry(s). AZGS and its representatives will not broker any deals. Buyers may not remove their purchases until 3 p.m. on Sunday.
14. AZGS and its judges strive to reward the efforts of the artists with ribbons available for first, second, and third place in each category. However, the judges may decide that the entry does not meet the requirements for a first-place ribbon, consideration will be given for a second, or third.

EXPLANATION OF SCORING VALUES

We strive to provide you with a fair, unbiased, and honest competition by using American Gourd Society Certified Judges. In the judge training and preparations, emphasis had been given to objectivity, impartiality, and fairness to everyone. Often judges must distinguish among several fine pieces, and the choices made by one group of certified judges might differ from those made by another. If you receive a ribbon, congratulations! If you do not, please take pride that you produced a beautiful piece of art.

Scores represent an attempt to quantify the level of artistry demonstrated in the entered work. Scores of 3, 4 or 5 represent good or better work in the characteristic being evaluated. Awarding ribbons may require selection based on very small differences. Just because a score of 5 was not awarded, does not mean the judges did not find the work on the piece admirable. Scores of 2 or 1 simply indicated that there is a good potential for improvement in that particular characteristic.

Definition of numerical scores:

5 = Excellent – Best of category or equal to best in category

4 = Very good – Noteworthy effort, but not quite to the level of best in category

3 = Good – Work typical of category or division

2 = Adequate – Some shortcomings, but no major issues

1 = Detracts from appeal of work. Improvement in this characteristic would enhance the attractiveness

SCORING CRITERIA

The Arizona Gourd Society competition will use the following competition scoring criteria explained below. The scoring addresses the overall artistic impression of the piece, the quality of craftsmanship, and the difficulty/level of effort required to execute the work. If a special or featured technique applies to a category, such as carving or wood burning, an evaluation of that technique will be included in the scoring.

Scores will be awarded relative to other entries in that category and skill level. If there are no other competing entries in that category, comparison will be with overall work at that skill level.

Overall Appearance:

- Artistic design
- Stands out from competition (wow factor)
- Originality

Craftsmanship:

- Attention to detail
- Inside of gourd is cleaned and neat
- Overall impact not marred by obvious flaws
- Finished look

Difficulty/Level of Effort:

- Difficulty of techniques as applied
- Design complex or intricate
- Skill in multiple areas

Featured Technique or Theme:

- Featured technique dominates
- Skill level demonstrated by execution of technique
- Meets technique criteria

Additional tips to artists:

- Clean and finish the inside of opened gourds.
- Smooth the edges of holes and paint the inside of the holes if they are visible.
- Keep weaving or stitching even and uniform.
- Make the color and finish smooth and uniform without runs, fingerprints, or glue showing.
- Keep burn lines sharp and uniform and avoid getting paint in the burn lines.

GROWERS DIVISION (JIM STORY) JUDGING

Judging points for growers:

- 50% cultural perfection: mature, clean, and free of imperfections, such as bug scars.
- 50% true to type: represents the ideal shape and size of its type name

A “Hand-Trained” and “Molded” gourd grown by the entrant since 2009 when the Jim Story Award (JSA) was established is eligible for entry, provided it has not won a previous JSA competition. These categories will be judged according to the JSA criteria. Winners of this class may be eligible to compete for the Jim Story Award in the AMERICAN GOURD SOCIETY (AGS) competition. Please refer to the AGS website and read the requirements for this award if interested in advancing to the Jim Story level as the requirements are very specific for entry. Please notify the Competition Chair if pursuing the Jim Story Award, as additional information may need to be submitted to the AGS by the grower and the Competition Chair.

DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS & CATEGORIES

See next page for Category Descriptions – Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Master

NOVICE DIVISION

The Novice Division is for the gourd artist who is new to the art form. This division provides the new gourd artist with an opportunity to demonstrate basic skills learned. The entrant may have no extensive experience or expertise in any art form that has been used on an entry gourd, such as painting, carving, pyrography, basketry etc. Thus, an entrant who has won a major award in a juried art show must move into a higher Division. Participation in this Division is limited to two years experience of gourd art.

- N-10.....Woodburning/Pyrography
- N-11.....Carving
- N-12.....Coloring Techniques
- N-13.....Functional Art
- N-14.....Arizona Impressions
- N-15.....Wildlife
- N-16.....Sculpture
- N-17.....Clay
- N-18.....Illumination
- N-19.....Miniatures
- N-20.....Gourd Dolls/Spirit Dolls
- N-21.....Gourd Masks
- N-22.....Vases, Bowls, Container
- N-23.....Mixed Media
- N-24.....Fantasy
- N-25.....Gourds Crafted In A Class Or Tutorial

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

The Intermediate Division is for an artist who may be new to gourds but has extensive experience or expertise in other art techniques, i.e. painting, woodcarving. This Division includes the artist who has two or more years of gourd art experience or the technique being used to enhance the gourd or has won a first-place ribbon in the Novice Division or has won Best of Novice Division.

- I-30Woodburning/Pyrography
- I-31Carving
- I-32Coloring Techniques
- I-33Functional Art
- I-34Arizona Impressions
- I-35Wildlife
- I-36Sculpture
- I-37Clay
- I-38Illumination
- I-39Miniatures
- I-40Gourd Dolls/Spirit Dolls
- I-41Gourd Masks
- I-42Vases, Bowls, Container
- I-43Mixed Media
- I-44Fantasy
- I-45Gourds Crafted In A Class Or Tutorial

ADVANCED DIVISION

This Division is for gourd artists who have won Best of Intermediate Division. It is also for artists who have won first place in any category in the Intermediate Division and wish to enter another gourd in the same category. Generally, gourd artists in this division have a good grasp of multiple techniques and are creating distinctive, original work. They may have taught a class but are not showing in galleries nor have won top awards in art/gourd competitions.

- A-50Woodburning/Pyrography
- A-51Carving
- A-52Coloring Techniques
- A-53Functional Art
- A-54Arizona Impressions
- A-55Wildlife
- A-56Sculpture
- A-57Clay
- A-58Illumination
- A-59Miniatures
- A-60Gourd Dolls/Spirit Dolls
- A-61Gourd Masks
- A-62Vases, Bowls, Container
- A-63Mixed Media
- A-64Fantasy

MASTER DIVISION

Gourd artists in this division have an excellent grasp of multiple techniques and are creating distinctive, original work. Their work may have been shown in galleries or have previously won top awards in art/gourd competitions. Master Division is for gourd artists who have won Best of Advanced Division. It is also for artists who have won first place in any category in the Advanced Division and wish to enter another gourd in the same category.

- M-70Woodburning/Pyrography
- M-71Carving
- M-72Coloring Techniques
- M-73Functional Art
- M-74Arizona Impressions
- M-75Wildlife
- M-76Sculpture
- M-77Clay
- M-78Illumination
- M-79Miniatures
- M-80Gourd Dolls/Spirit Dolls
- M-81Gourd Masks
- M-82Vases, Bowls, Container
- M-83Mixed Media
- M-84Fantasy

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Divisions: Novice • Intermediate • Advanced • Master

WOODBURNING/PYROGRAPHY – The Gourd must be PREDOMINATELY wood burned, and may include the use of stains, inks, dyes or clear finish to add to the overall creativity. Burning styles include line burning, shading, and stippling. One or all three styles may be present.

CARVING – The gourd must be carved, chiseled, gouged or have a cut design that penetrates the gourd surface, including filigree and fretwork. This category does not include fiber clay, epoxy sculpt, or any form of clay.

COLORING TECHNIQUES – Any coloring technique is acceptable if it is the predominate feature on the gourd.

FUNCTIONAL ART – This category includes Music, Jewelry, Purses, or any wearable art. The gourd exhibits any technique or combination of techniques. Whole gourds or gourd shards may be used as well as accessories such as beads, leather, string, cord and clasps. Jewelry items may include pins, earrings, bracelets, and hair pieces, but must be wearable. Gourd purses are included in this category but must be functional. A music gourd must be playable.

ARIZONA IMPRESSIONS – The gourd exhibits any techniques or combination of techniques. The gourd design may incorporate anything to do with what the artist's impressions(s) of what best represents Arizona, i.e. landscape, flora, habitat, Native American designs, cultural, historical and animal.

WILDLIFE – Any technique or combination of techniques is allowed and will represent living elements, i.e. birds, animals, such as mammals, fish, reptiles, insects, and flora (plants).

SCULPTURE – The entry will be a joining or combining of one or more gourds, in whole or pieces, to make a three-dimensional sculpture, or entry. The entry should be designed and assembled to be seen from different sides, and the design should be with the gourd(s) as predominant. Clay or wood filler may be used in sculpting on the gourd surface but should cover no more than 30% of the gourd surface. Additional techniques may be used to complete the design and limited embellishments may be added.

CLAY – The gourd design can be fantasy or realistic. 55% of the armature is required to be made from one or multiple gourds. The artist is to provide a photo of the original, unaltered gourd used as the armature.

ILLUMINATION – Lamps and illuminated gourds are included. Gourds will be displayed unlit. Battery operated tea lights, provided by the artist, may be used when the gourd is judged.

MINIATURES – Any technique is allowed. The gourd, including stems and any embellishments, must be three (3) inches or less in any direction. Display stands are allowed. No jewelry gourds are allowed in this category.

GOURD DOLLS/SPIRIT DOLLS – Any technique is allowed.

GOURD MASKS – Any technique is allowed. Gourd masks are made to wear, display, or hang on the wall. Masks without a display stand must have a loop or hanger so it may be hung for display at the show. Please indicate clearly on your entry form if the mask must be hung for display.

VASES, BOWLS, CONTAINER – Any technique allowed.

MIXED MEDIA – This category includes applied embellishments that are predominant in the gourd design which may include beads, glass, stones, metal, inlay, In lace, and steam punk accessories. This category also includes weaving, twining, coiling, Tenerife, Philodendron sheaths, long grass, bark strips, paper rush and pine needles with LIMITED embellishments. 55% of the finished piece is to be gourd. This category may include some wood burning, carving, and coloring techniques.

FANTASY – The entry will depict magical or other supernatural themes and ideas, and will reflect original ideas of the artist. Copyright must be respected. The entry will be a joining or combining of one or more gourds, in whole or pieces, to make a three-dimensional entry. The entry should be designed and assembled to be seen from different sides, and the design should be with the gourd(s) as predominant. Clay or wood filler may be used in sculpting on the gourd surface but should cover no more than 30% of the gourd surface. Additional techniques may be used to complete the design and limited embellishments may be added.

GOURDS CRAFTED IN A CLASS OR TUTORIAL (*Novice & Intermediate Divisions Only*) – The gourd entered in this category will be judged solely on its quality of craftsmanship and will receive one overall score.

DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS & CATEGORIES

YOUTH DIVISION

This division is designed to promote, encourage and teach school-aged youth how to create art from gourds. Any type of gourd art, using a single gourd or combination of gourds may be entered. There is no entry fee for entrants in this Division. The art piece may be from a seminar, class, or pattern. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry. (Youth exhibitors may enter in the Novice or Intermediate Divisions, where regular fees will apply as well all other requirements for each of those divisions.)

Y-1.....JUNIOR (Youth ages 12 and under) – Functional or decorative gourd using any technique.

Y-2.....TEEN (Youth ages 13-17) – Functional or decorative gourd using any technique.

COLLABORATIVE DIVISION

C-3.....COLLABORATIVE – In Gourd Art Collaboration, a project is created by a group of two or more gourd artists who have come together to design and create one entry. Collaboration is open to all skill levels, i.e., three gourd artists could include one each from Novice, Intermediate and Master Divisions. Any number of gourds may be used to create one entry. You may use any medium, except laser or fractal burning. AZGS will award only one ribbon for each winning entry. There is NO fee for this division. For gourd patches or multiple-artist projects who donate their gourd art for the Arizona Gourd Society Game-of-Chance, their work will be entered in the Collaboration Division. Judges will consider placement for first, second, and third place ribbons. Entries into this division will not be considered for the Best in Show.

DISPLAY ONLY

D-90ANY TECHNIQUE – This category is for any gourd artist that would like to display their artwork. Space is limited to two gourds per artist. These gourds will not be judged and there will be no charge to display the gourds.

GROWERS DIVISION - (JIM STORY)

The Growers Division is for entry of gourds in their natural state. Gourds must have been grown by the exhibitor. The outer skin of the gourd must be clean, unfinished, and uncut. Gourds must not have any stain, oil, or wax applied to them.

GD-1....HAND-TRAINED – One dried, cleaned, hand trained gourd (knotted or twisted during growth); Green cleaned preferred but not required

GD-2....MOLDED – Grown in a commercial or homemade mold (Any manipulated or molded gourd grown by the entrant.)

GRAND MASTER DIVISION

The Grand Master Division is for the artists who consistently create gallery quality artwork that is SOLELY THE ARTIST'S OWN CONCEPT. The main requirement to enter this division is that the entry is an exceptional example of gourd art. The artist's skills in design and technique must be considered superior and their creativity inspirational.

To qualify for the Grand Master Division:

1. An artist's work must currently be on display in a gallery OR the artist should have participated in a juried art show or juried gallery exhibition sometime in the last two years.
2. An artist must have won either Best of Show or Best of Master Division, or both, at some time in the past.

By January 1, 2023, Grand Master artists must notify the Grand Masters Chair of the artist's intent to provide an entry in this division. The Competition Committee intends to showcase the Grand Master entry in the most favorable manner. Please let the Grand Master Chair know the size and scope of your entry. A single entry may have several parts, such as a puppet theater that will be considered as one item. For larger entries, tell the Grand Masters Chair the size, scope and weight of the entry. Some entries may be too heavy or large to sit on a table.

This is an opportunity for gourd artists, who do superior work with gourds, to enjoy and explore the unknown without restriction or the encumbrances of competition. The artists can submit a concept or demonstration piece(s) with the idea of stimulating wonder, thought, and inspiration. The focus will be one of pushing the edge of possibilities instead of focusing on judging criteria. This division is for artists who want to challenge themselves, to design and produce a one-of-a-kind gourd art that is unrivaled.

This division will not be judged and is not part of the Best of Show competition. The artists are already the Best of the Show! It is requested that each artist submit ONE entry for this division.

Artists in Grand Masters should include a biography with their entry form, which will be displayed with their entry. Email your biography to the Grand Masters Chair at the address noted on Page 1.