



2026 Jury Day – Information Handout

Date: **Saturday, February 21, 2026**

Location: **Christ the Lord Lutheran Church**

9205 E Cave Creek Rd, Carefree

2026 Jury Day Page: sonoranartsleague.org/jury-day

Once a year, the Sonoran Arts League holds a Jury Day at which members may apply to become "**Juried Members**" of the League. This special designation is awarded to artists who submit a body of work that is deemed by a panel of independent art professionals to meet an elevated standard of excellence, based on criteria established by the League.

Why Become a Juried Member

All participants in Jury Day get the benefit of professional feedback about their work, emailed to them following Jury Day, and the chance to become a Juried Member of the Sonoran Arts League.

NOTE: The League's annual Jury Day is NOT the same as getting juried into a specific show at the League Gallery. Juried Member status is NOT a requirement to submit your work to a regular show at the League Gallery or to participate in the HITH Studio Tour. All you need for those is membership in the League.

For those who become Juried Members, that designation is recognized...

- In the artist's profile on the Sonoran Arts League website;
- With "Juried Member" next to the artist's name in the Hidden in The Hills (HITH) Directory and other League publications;
- With "Juried Member" on their title cards when that artist has work in Sonoran Arts League Gallery shows;
- On a special "Juried Member" League badge that Juried Members can purchase.

Newly Juried Members will have the opportunity to:

- Submit work to Gallery shows limited to Juried Members only;
- Opt-in for special social media promotion (when offered);
- List the accomplishment on their own websites and resumes.

Art Medium

Artists should submit work for Jury Day in **one medium only** to show mastery of that medium. Once an artist becomes a Juried Member, they retain that status no matter what media they may choose to work in thereafter. They are then free to submit work in any medium or set of media when responding to Calls for Art, participating in the Hidden in the Hills Studio Tour, etc.

Who Juries the Work?

Artwork submitted on Jury Day will be evaluated by a three-Juror panel of accomplished art professionals who are not associated with the League. Jurors' identities remain anonymous.

Criteria for Evaluation

The Jurors will evaluate whether the submitted pieces rise to the level of a **consistent and professional body of work**, based on criteria listed on the next page. (For criteria details, click the ***Jurying Criteria Definitions*** button at the bottom of the 2026 Jury Day page on the League website (link at the top of the page).

Cohesive Body of Work	Value, Color, Hues	Tonal Contrast
Composition & Design	Anatomy	Foreground / Background
Originality & Creativity	Linear Perspective	Positive / Negative Space
Masterful Technique	Color & Harmony	Framing & Presentation

Keep in Mind:

- **The Jurors evaluate against set criteria but their decisions are, to an extent, subjective.**
- 2D art will be placed on chairs or leaned against walls in the Church space. 3D art and jewelry will be displayed on tables. Work will be grouped by artist. **No work will be hung on walls.**
- Jurors can choose to ignore a specific criterion and mark it "NA" if it does not apply to the work.

Requirements

1. You must be a paid member of the Sonoran Arts League in good standing.
2. \$50 Jury Day fee entitles you to submit **5 pieces of work** in a single medium.
3. Your medium must be eligible (per "Medium" drop-down list on League website's Artist Profile pages).
4. **Artwork must be "gallery-ready."** Work that is not will be turned away. (See the Jury Day page for "gallery-ready" information.)
5. **We do NOT allow:**
 - Work that is copied, in part or whole, from any published/locally shown work that is copyrighted.
 - Pieces done in a workshop/class, student work, or work completed under mentor guidance.
 - Giclée's or photographs of original paintings printed on canvas.
6. Large work that cannot reasonably be moved may be juried with 8" x 10" colored photos showing all sides (not to exceed four photos of each piece).
7. When you drop off your work on Jury Day, you must turn in a filled-out **Jury Day Contract** and an **Artist Statement** of up to 100 words on a single 3 x 5 card. Work without these will be turned away.

How to Register for Jury Day

Registration: **Oct 27, 2025 to Feb 14, 2026** or when 30 slots are filled, whichever comes first (first come/first served).

To hold your place for Jury Day (starting on Oct 27):

1. Go to **Sonoran Arts League website** (sonoranartsleague.org).
 2. Log in as a member and go to the **Jury Day page** (sonoranartsleague.org/jury-day/).
 3. Click the **Register for Jury Day** button, then **Register Now!** at the bottom of the Jury Day event page.
 4. Fill out all required information (including credit card for payment), and click the **Register!** button
- Soon after your registration is submitted and accepted, you will be emailed detailed instructions.

Dates to Remember

Registration Opens:

Mon, Oct 27, 2025

Registration Closes:

When 30 slots are filled

(or Sat, Feb 14, 2026, whichever comes first)

Jury Day:

Sat, Feb 21, 2026

Special No-Cost Preparation Opportunities

Information Sessions:

In Person (League Gallery): **Mon Oct 20 @ 6:00-8 pm** (session starts @ 6:30)

On Zoom: **Tues Oct 21 @ 6:30-8 pm**

Individual Art Critiques:

Have your work evaluated for Jury Day readiness by Jury Committee members.

Sun, Jan 4, between 9 am and noon, scheduled individually

Sun, Jan 11, between 9 am and noon, scheduled individually

To schedule an appointment, contact Nicolette Bonnstetter (nic@nicsart.com).