General Guidelines
The National Portrait Gallery invites artists at least 18 years of age (at time of entry) who are living and working in the United States, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands to compete in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition. We encourage artists to interpret the concept of portraiture broadly, meaning entries will be accepted in all forms of visual arts media. Each artist may enter only one portrait, and it must have been created after January 1 of the previous competition award. Additional details will be listed in each Call for Entries.

Prizes
The first-prize winner of the competition will receive a cash award of $25,000 and will be awarded a separate commission to portray a remarkable living American for the National Portrait Gallery’s collection. The second-prize winner will receive $7,500, and the third-prize winner will receive $5,000. Up to four additional artists may be commended for their work, and those artists will receive $1,000 each. The winner of the People’s Choice Award during the exhibition at the Portrait Gallery will receive $500.

Submission Guidelines
To properly submit an entry, all artists must provide the following information via the online submission site:

- Name, address, email, and other contact details.
- Information about the work being entered, including creation date, media, all dimensions, and approximate weight.
- Up to two images of the artwork can be submitted. For multipart works, one image should show a view of the entire work, and one image should be a detail view which includes one component of the work. Up to one audio or video of the artwork can be submitted. Acceptable media file formats will be listed on the Call for Entries.
• For time-based art, artists should submit a compressed exhibition copy and file sizes will be specified in the Call for Entries. Up to one video or two images of the artwork can be submitted.
• Performance art submissions should include a fully developed, finished written concept and visuals. If the work has already been performed, photographic or video documentation of the work should be included as a compressed video file that is sized to the specifications on the Call for Entries, or two still images. If it has never been performed, a storyboard or drawings outlining the action should be submitted as an image file.
• Credit card information to pay the nonrefundable entry fee.

Artwork Requirements
All artwork submitted to the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition must meet the following specifications:

• Entries must have been created after January 1 of the prior competition award and be completed prior to the close of the Call for Entries period. (See Call for Entries for specific dates.)

Two-dimensional Artwork
• Measurements may not exceed 7 feet (H) x 7 feet (W) x 8 inches (D) (including frame), and works may not weigh more than 150 pounds.
• Works should include all necessary mounting and hanging hardware (e.g., D-rings and cleats)

Prints, Drawings, and other Works on Paper
• Should be framed and glazed with UV filtering acrylic (i.e. Plexiglas) or UV filtering anti-static acrylic in the case of pastels and charcoals

Paintings
• Must be framed, strip frames are acceptable
• Preferably unglazed, unless the work is unvarnished

Photographs
• Should be framed or mounted under UV-filtering acrylic glazing (i.e. Plexiglas). If frameless mounting is used, hanging cleat or other appropriate mounting hardware must be provided.
Sculpture

- May be freestanding or wall-mounted
- May be composed of any sculptural media, including but not limited to: stone, metal, fiber, clay, wood, paper, and resin
- Overall measurements must not exceed 7 feet (H) x 7 feet (W) x 4 feet (D), and may not weigh more than 150 pounds
- The Portrait Gallery will provide platforms or pedestals. Please indicate unusual mounting needs.

Time-Based Art

- Artists should submit a compressed exhibition copy that is sized to the specifications on the Call for Entries. Up to one video or two images of the artwork can be submitted.

Performance Art

- Performance art submissions should include a fully developed, finished written concept and visuals.
- If the work has already been performed, photographic or video that is sized to the specifications on the Call for Entries, or two still images.
- If it has never been performed, a storyboard or drawings outlining the action should be submitted as an image file.

Hardware Instructions

- Artist / lender should be providing appropriate hardware or mounting for works selected as a semifinalist. The Portrait Gallery reserves the right to add hardware at its discretion and according to best museum practices.
- The Portrait Gallery will provide corresponding wall-side florets and hardware when installing works selected for exhibition.
Disqualification Factors
The National Portrait Gallery reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to disqualify any artist it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Portrait Competition, including its website. It also reserves the right to disqualify any artist who does not adhere to the Rules of Entry.

Artists who are chosen as semifinalists may not alter the artwork that they have entered in any way after the close of the competition (see Call for Entries for specific date). This includes printing photographs in different sizes and adding varnish to canvases. Work entered in the competition may not be sold at any time during the competition, its subsequent exhibition, or the national tour.

Artists must have written approval to submit any work that is owned by a third party and must provide the owner’s guarantee that (1) the owner will be bound by these rules and (2) if required, the work may be placed on loan to the Portrait Gallery for the competition, duration of the exhibition, and subsequent tour.

Exhibition Guidelines
All entries must be available for loan from the time that they would need to be collected for the on-site jury day through the duration of the exhibition and tour. See Calendar for specific dates relating to:

- Notification of selection of semifinalists
- Shipment of semifinalists’ works to Washington, D.C.
- Notification of selection of finalists; return of non-finalists’ works to lenders

All finalists’ works will form a major exhibition on view at the Portrait Gallery. The exhibition will then embark on a national tour and artworks will be returned to lenders at its conclusion. See Calendar for the dates of the exhibition and national tour.

Up to seven artists will be shortlisted for an award and will be expected to attend a presentation ceremony prior to the opening of the exhibition. The Portrait Gallery will reimburse the shortlisted artists for standard travel and lodging costs to attend the presentation ceremony. These costs are subject to prior approval by the Portrait Gallery. All remaining artists whose works are included in the exhibition will be invited to attend the opening reception at their own expense.
Rights Guidelines
Copyright of all portraits submitted to the Portrait Competition will remain the property of the artists, but it is a condition of entry that the artist shall grant to the National Portrait Gallery the irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide right to reproduce all exhibited works for the museum’s publications, research, public programs, publicity, any promotional materials, and electronic distribution on websites and social media platforms maintained by the Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution and tour venues, in connection with the Portrait Competition and resulting exhibition and tour.

The winning artist will be required to transfer ownership of and assign all rights, including copyright, in the commissioned portrait to the Portrait Gallery, but the Portrait Gallery will grant the artist a license to reproduce the portrait for use in his or her portfolio for noncommercial, portfolio purposes. The commissioned portrait will be submitted for approval by the Portrait Gallery’s Commission to be included in the Portrait Gallery’s permanent collection. By participating in this contest, artists agree to be bound by these rules, including all eligibility requirements. All interpretations of the rules and decisions by the Portrait Gallery relating to the rules and the Portrait Competition, exhibition, and subsequent tour are final.

Shipping Guidelines
Semifinalist works will be packed and shipped to Washington, D.C., for further judging of the original portraits. Work brought to and from Washington, D.C., for the Portrait Competition will be handled by professional art handlers and installers. Work will be retrieved only from an address in the United States, and the Portrait Gallery will return work only to the address from which it was picked up, unless the artist notifies the Portrait Gallery in writing of a change of address in the United States. All packing and shipping arrangements and costs will be handled by the Portrait Gallery up to $3,000 one way; the artist or owner must cover any costs exceeding that amount.

The artist shall carry insurance for the work while in transit to and from Washington, D.C. Insurance in the amount of the good-faith estimate of value determined by the artist shall be placed on all loans and carried in force from the time the work enters the custody of the Portrait Gallery and is condition-reported until the work leaves the Portrait Gallery at the conclusion of the exhibition, including any subsequent
tour. This shall be an all-risk policy, subject to standard policy exclusions carried by the Smithsonian Institution, and all costs shall be borne by the Portrait Gallery.

**Liability Guidelines**

In the event of loss or damage to the work while in the custody of the Portrait Gallery, the artist will be required to accept insurance proceeds as its sole form of remedy against the Portrait Gallery. Works that cannot be repaired if damaged due to the nature of the materials will not be insured, and the Portrait Gallery bears no responsibility for damage or loss to such works. The Portrait Gallery bears no responsibility for loss or damage caused by normal wear and tear or inherent deterioration of the works. Works selected for exhibition cannot be removed by the artist or owner before the end of the exhibition and subsequent tour and may not be sold during the course of the competition, from their submission through the Portrait Gallery exhibition period and the subsequent tour.

The Portrait Gallery is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunctions of the internet or any website, including injury or damage to artists or to any other person’s computer related to, or resulting from, participating or downloading materials in this Portrait Competition. If, for any reason, the Portrait Competition is not capable of running as planned, the Portrait Gallery reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the Portrait Competition. Collection of personally identifiable information from artists will be done in accordance with the Smithsonian Institution Privacy Policy as posted on [https://www.si.edu/Privacy](https://www.si.edu/Privacy).