

# Michigan Taxidermist Association - Wildlife Art Rules

All entries must have main subject matter to include some form of wild mammal, wild fish, wild bird or wild reptile.

## **Levels of Competition - DIVISIONS**

### **Masters:**

All Artists may enter and anyone that has won two Ribbons in the Intermediate level must advance to this level. Suggested: Artists that are considered Professional, sell work as an income or teach techniques for a wage.

### **Intermediate:**

Open to Artists who have not received two ribbons in the intermediate level or won a First Second or Third Best of Show as an Intermediate. Suggested: Artists that have competed previously or sell their artwork for profit should enter at this level or higher.

### **Novice:**

Open to Artists who have not received two ribbons in the novice level or won a First Second or Third Best of Show as a Novice. An Artist new to competing with little or no formal training.

### **Junior:** Artist 17 years of age or under.

The intention is to have beginning competitors start at the novice level and work up to open. However, you may advance yourself at any time without winning in a lower category but once you win in a higher category you may not go back down a level.

**\*\*Categories are for whole or partial wildlife creations. The MTA will expand the following categories as the competition grows\*\***

## **Art CATEGORIES:**

### ***Photography:***

Black and White, Color, Sepia, Hand Tinted Other.  
Photographs may be printed on matte, semi-gloss or glossy paper.

### ***Paintings:***

Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Other.

### ***Drawings:***

Graphite, Ink, Charcoal, Chalk Pastels, Oil Pastels, Colored Pencil, Other.

### ***Alternative Mediums:***

Etchings, Printing, Collage, Mixed Medium, Other

### ***3D:***

Three-dimensional, Sculpture

## **Carving CATEGORIES:**

MAM-

Mammal

BIRD

Bird

FISH-

Fish

AIR-

Amphibians- Invertebrates-Reptile

DLS -

Decorative Life-size (wood fish carvings)

NFRF -

Natural Finish Realistic Fish (wood fish carvings)

MXGRP-

Mixed Group

## **Judging**

The following criteria will be used for all levels of competition and, unless specifically restricted elsewhere, in all divisions. All four criteria are important because they overlap and build on each other. In order for a piece to reach its fullest potential, it must succeed in all four areas simultaneously.

A. **Craftsmanship** refers to the technical skills involved in drawing, carving, painting and/or finishing techniques. The execution of craftsmanship will be looked for in the subject, any habitat, accessories, and the base itself, if there should be one. Quality craftsmanship should be consistent throughout the entire piece.

B. **Accuracy** involves the correctness of a piece from a scientific perspective. Size, shape, proportions, value, color, etc., are the concepts important here. Anything accompanying the subject must be given the same scrutiny. Accuracy involves the natural history of the whole piece, all of its components, and the appropriateness of those components together.

C. **Essence of the Species** involves capturing the “gist” or “gestalt” of a species. It involves a thorough knowledge of one’s subject and the ability to capture an attitude in art. Capturing the essence of your subject and giving it the spark that brings it alive.

D. **Artistry** of a piece refers to its design and composition. This is where presentation, innovation, and creativity all come into play. There should be beauty in the concept apart from the beauty of the carving itself. Line, form, content, color, mass, and movement should all be working together to create an integrated whole.

## **Awards:**

A. Each division will award a First, Second and Third place award ribbon in each category that has entries. Divisions have single ribbon awards.

B. The State Champion wildlife artwork will be selected from all entries in the competition. All first-place pieces from each division will be grouped together and a single entry will be selected as the State Champion Best of Show. There will be a First, Second & Third Place Best of Show.

C. Ed Walicki Memorial Award: Chosen by the members as the “People’s Choice” award in the Fish Carving area

<b><u>State Champion Best of Show</u></b>	1 <sup>st</sup> :	\$200	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> :	\$100	
	3 <sup>rd</sup> :	\$50	

\*Other sponsored Awards may become available

# Ed Walicki Memorial Fish Carving Categories

## **Decorative Life-size**

- A. The entry will be judged using the live fish as a model.
- B. Any fish that may be too large to carve may be carved at a reduced scale. For example, a 12-foot, 600-pound marlin or a 6-foot, 80-pound Chinook salmon would be carved at an appropriate reduced scale so that the minimum size is 18 inches with no maximum size. The reduced scale carvings compete as life-size and reflect the mature anatomy of the life-sized fish.
- C. All carvings must support the total wood-carving concept. Those entries composed solely of wood, or those that contain as little non-wood materials as possible, will have an advantage over those entries that contain authorized substitute materials listed below.
- D. No resin or plastic water is acceptable.
- E. The use of resins, silicones, or plastics in any form is limited to the construction of artificial teeth, eye sculpturing, joint construction, and inserting fins and tail only.
- F. Allowable items include: artificial eyes, fishing line, fish hooks, and metal for strength and support.
- G. Items not allowed include: plastic, silk, or manufactured plants; cast objects such as rocks, wood, bugs, plants, fins, and gills; real rocks, sand, or manufactured lures. Gravel made with wood/plumber's putty is allowed up through the intermediate level.
- H. Commercial blanks and rough-outs are allowed in the novice and junior levels.
- I. Judges will place strong emphasis in their evaluations when all elements are carved of wood, however, the following is allowed: (a) in the novice level, found, real driftwood may be used. (b) In all levels, re-worked found, real driftwood may be used.
- J. All components used to create the environment for decorative entries must be made by the carver from wood (or metal where allowed when required for strength and support.)
- K. Carved habitat may be coated with paint or paint additives for texturing. Any carving found to contain non-approved materials will not be eligible for ribbons or awards.
- L. Any method used to emboss, burn, engrave, or carve scales in wood is permitted. Glass cases or domes must be removed for judging.
- M. The carving must contain the carver's name and date marked on the carving. (The name will be covered with tape at registration.)

## **Natural Finish Realistic Fish**

- A. In addition to specific qualifications listed below, judges will evaluate entries using criteria listed in Judging Criteria
- B: These entries are natural finish carvings that closely resemble recognizable fish and contain more details. The entries can be single or multiple carvings, and composed in an artistic setting. The carver may use separate pieces of wood for fins, grass, etc., but all finishes must be natural.
- C. Only transparent stains and clear finishes may be used.
- D. No opaque paints will be allowed with the exception of eyes, where opaque paints may be used in place of glass eyes.
- E. The wood grain must be visible through the finish.
- F. Carved eyes are preferred, however, glass eyes will be allowed in junior, novice and intermediate levels only.
- G. Natural finish fish carvings are to be composed as to enhance the natural beauty of the wood being used.
- H. The carver will be allowed to decide which category best suits the piece. I. Bases may be painted or stained.

## CRITERIA FOR 2D ART

### Entry Conditions for Artwork:

*Note: We will not allow any 2-D artists to submit work that has been previously shown in an MTA event.*

### Framed 2-D Artwork:

- All wall-hung work must be properly matted and/or framed, with wire for hanging at least 2" from the top edge of the frame. Gallery wrapped canvasses are permitted.
- **NO** smudged mats, wet canvasses, clip or poster frames, or damaged frames are allowed.
- A label made by the artist must be put on the back of the work to include: artist name, three letter initials, medium and division.
- Check-in includes a quality check of each artist's work.
- Table top and floor easels are encouraged

### Unframed 2-D Artwork:

- All unframed 2-D work will be displayed on a show curtain or appropriate means.
- Each piece must be properly matted, and should be wrapped neatly in shrink-wrap, acetate, clear plastic, or plastic print sleeves. Saran wrap or Ziploc type bags *will not* be accepted.
- A label made by the artist must be affixed to the back of the packaging with: artist name, three letter initials, medium, and division.
- All reproductions (prints or color copies) of your work must be labeled as such.
- Only one image of each work may be displayed in the show at a time.
- Only two pieces of work by an artist will be shown at any one time.
- Table top and floor easels are encouraged

### Selling of Work

At the show, items may be placed up for sale to the general public. The MTA would be paid ten percent (10%) of the selling price.

Membership and registration must be paid in order to attend convention seminars.

**Banquet Dinner** – (\$30.00 per person \$10.00 for 12 yrs & under). **You must be signed up by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**. for the dinner at the banquet. No exceptions. You will not be allowed to pay the night of the banquet!

**Friday Night Buffet**-( $\$25.00$  per Adult –  $\$10.00$  for 12 yrs & under) We will have a Little Italy themed dinner and a "Family Friendly" Comedian following the meal at Grand River Hotel. **You must be signed up by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**.

# GENERAL COMPETITION RULES – Wildlife Art

1. Registration for Artwork will be from 9:00AM- 9:00PM on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2018.
2. The competing Artist shall complete the established registration process for the show at hand on or before 9:00 pm of the day of registration. An Artist may have an item entered into the show by an authorized proxy.
3. If the competitor has any questions about the appropriate wildlife art category to identify for their entry, it shall be discussed and decided with the competition chairman during the registration time period.
4. The judges and the competition chairman have the authority to change an entry's category if during the judging period an issue surfaces and it is determined that a more correct category assignment would be reasonable, objective, fair to the competitors, and a benefit to the whole competitive show. An attempt provide notice to the competitor will be made at that time.
5. The judges, at the time of their judging, shall make the final determination of placement of all entries in any/all categories.
6. All entries into the Wildlife Art competition must have been created, constructed, and finished by the competitor or competitors if a joint effort.
7. Wildlife Art entries may be constructed of any medium of choice and can be finished in a clear natural finish or painted or a combination of finishes. The only fish carvings that will be in the running for the Ed Walicki Memorial Award must meet the criteria stated in that section. Any individually constructed or commercially created eye may be used in carving entries for the carving eyes as according to the set criteria being followed.
8. The judges reserve the right to award or withhold ribbons based upon the quality of artwork in each category. Ribbons may include first, second, and third.
9. All entries must remain for the duration of the show (5 p.m. Sunday) **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
10. Artwork is entered at owner's risk. Every precaution will be made to secure the entries. The MTA will not assume responsibility for loss due to damage, theft, fire and/or natural causes.
11. All name plates indicating the artist name and/or business name must be covered by the competitor before carving is entered.
12. No pictures showing the artist and/or the business shall be allowed in the judging area until judging is complete.
13. **No names or pictures are allowed on the originality sheets.**
14. No business cards are to be placed on or around competition pieces on the convention floor at any time during the show. This ensures the safety of all competitors mounts from being damaged or stolen by ensuring the general public is not encouraged to reach across the security barriers that are in place.
15. Two blue ribbons in Novice or Intermediate divisions in any category or combination of categories bump you up to the next highest division the following year.
16. At the conclusion of the show, please line up behind the curtain at the West end of the showroom to be escorted to your entry by an MTA Board member.
17. You must show your I.D. receipt tag upon leaving the show at 5 p.m. Sunday with your mount. **DO NOT LOOSE THIS RECEIPT!**
18. **NO ONE** will be allowed in the judging area until judging is complete. **ONLY** people designated by competition chairman will be allowed in judging area during judging.
19. The judges must break all ties for trophies or major awards before the judging is completed.
20. You may **NOT** enter a single category in two different divisions (Example – you may not enter a carving in both the Novice and Intermediate divisions or Intermediate and Open etc.
21. You **MUST** have received a blue ribbon to be eligible to receive a Wildlife Art Best State Champion.
22. After the judging is complete, the judges **ARE NOT** allowed to change any ribbons. Do not ask them to do so. If you have a problem, please contact the competition chairperson. He/she will use their discretion to settle any disputes and their ruling is final!

Sportsmanship: Unsportsmanlike conduct could result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all MTA awards. The MTA has gone to great lengths to obtain the most experienced and qualified judges possible. Accept the judge's decision as being final (even if you don't agree with it). Unruly or disruptive behavior towards show officials or judges will not be tolerated and the perpetrator will be asked to leave and will be barred from future competitions.