

# TRASH ART CONTEST 2025



## RULES & GUIDELINES

### How to Submit

Participants must fill out the online [submission form](#) by **Friday March 28, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. PDT.**

### Contest Rules

*Submissions that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.*

- Artist(s) must be a current UW student, faculty or staff member.
- The art piece can be an individual or group project. *Each participant may only submit one art project, whether it is a group project or individual submission.*
- All entries must be original works by the entrant(s).
- Artwork and written work should reflect the **theme of waste & sustainability.**
- The art piece must be submitted under one of the following categories:
  - **2D** (pieces that may be hung on a wall like painting, photography, or collage)
  - **3D** (sculpture, model or other pieces that stand upright)
  - **Textile** (art created predominantly from textile and fiber art techniques – like sewing, weaving, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc.)
  - **Literature** (short-form written work: essay, poetry, drama, story, etc.)
- All projects should be safe to handle and display (no hazards, etc.). Submissions must adhere to the [UW Libraries Exhibits Policy](#) and the [Safety & Display Expectations](#) of Odegaard Undergraduate Library Exhibit Space.
- The art piece may not be a work previously submitted to the UW Trash Art Contest.

### Category-specific Rules

If you're unsure of which category to submit your art to, please email [recycle@uw.edu](mailto:recycle@uw.edu). The UW Recycling team would be happy to help you.

#### 2D, 3D & Textile Art

- Textile, 2D and 3D art pieces must be composed of recycled, salvaged or collected litter materials.
- 2D, 3D and Textile submissions **must be created from individual's personal waste.** Material purchased with University funds, regardless of condition, cannot be used for this contest. Please do not take or use material from campus waste bins or “dumpster dive” in public areas. Submissions that use material from campus/public waste areas or material purchased with University funds will be ineligible to win or receive a prize.

- Physical art pieces larger than 40 inches in height, length or depth may not be displayed in the art exhibit due to space constraints. If a winning piece is larger than 40 inches, a photo of the art piece may be exhibited instead.

### Literature

- Submissions may be any format (poetry, a short story, essay, etc.) but should not exceed 5,000 words.

### Judging Criteria

Submissions are judged based on the following criteria:

- Creativity/originality
- Impact & quality
  - *2D, 3D & Textile Art: Visual impact & quality*
  - *Literature: Emotional impact & quality*
- Interpretation of theme
- Relevance to personal and/or the UW campus waste

See the [next page](#) for further information on the judging criteria for literature and art categories.

### Prizes

Each winning entry will receive one e-gift card of their choosing to one of the following locations. 1st place winners for each category will receive a \$100 e-gift card and 2nd place winners will receive a \$50 e-gift card.

- [A Drop in the Ocean](#) (Tacoma)
- [Artist & Craftsman Supply](#) (Seattle)
- [PUBLIC](#) (West Seattle)
- [Seattle ReCreative](#) (Seattle)
- [Refugee Artisan Initiative](#) (Seattle)

### Publication

Winning pieces will be displayed in an exhibit at Odegaard Undergraduate Library during the month of April.

All contest submissions will have their art piece, artist bio, and piece description highlighted on UW Sustainability's [In Our Nature](#) blog, as well as UW Recycling's [Instagram](#). Submissions may also be featured on other University of Washington platforms.

# JUDGING CRITERIA GUIDING QUESTIONS

## 2D, 3D & TEXTILE ART

### CREATIVITY/ORIGINALITY

Does the artist's material usage show creativity? Did the artist give the materials new context? Were the materials transformed in any way? How much material was used?

### VISUAL IMPACT & QUALITY

Is there evidence of thought put into the art piece? How does the artist demonstrate skill? Does this submission make you feel something/appeal to your emotions?

### INTERPRETATION OF THEME

Is there a clear description included with the piece? Does the description fit the sustainability and waste theme? Does the physical artwork convey the theme? Does the description align with the visual artwork? Does the artist express a specific thought/meaning?

### RELEVANCE TO PERSONAL AND/OR THE UW CAMPUS WASTE

Does the response mention the artist's personal waste or waste on campus? Does this response provide deeper meaning to the art submission?

## LITERATURE

### CREATIVITY/ORIGINALITY

How creative is the format? How original is the topic or story? Does the piece have several layers or angles of meaning (nuance)? Does the submission use expressive language?

### EMOTIONAL IMPACT & QUALITY

Is there evidence of thought put into the written work? How much detail is put into the piece? Does this submission move you emotionally? Does it tell a compelling story? Does the piece prompt you to take action, reassess, or give careful thought to the subject matter?

### INTERPRETATION OF THEME

How well is the theme integrated into the story, poem, etc.? Does the piece help to educate readers about waste? Does the work show depth of the topic?

### RELEVANCE TO PERSONAL AND/OR THE UW CAMPUS WASTE

Does the response mention the artist's personal waste or waste on campus? Does this response provide deeper meaning to the submission?