

**Wilkes Art Gallery's 45th Annual Blue Ridge Overview**  
**Juried Photography Exhibition**  
**January 16th - February 13th, 2026**  
**Juror: Thomas Thielemann**

**Submission Dates:** Friday, January 2nd, 2026 from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM and Saturday, January 3rd, 2026 from 10 AM to 2 PM

**Opening Reception:** January 16th, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

**Awards Presentation:** January 16th, 6:30 PM

**Submission Categories and Descriptions:**

- **Everyday Life:** Lifestyle images, workplaces. Daily routines, sights, etc. that give insight to the human experience.
- **Nature & Environments:** Landscapes, wildlife, natural textures, forces of nature, travel, etc.
- **Artistic Portraiture:** Images focusing on animate subjects (person/people, pets), capturing personality and emotion through artistic use of composition, color, and style
- **Conceptual and Alternative Processes:** Abstract, alternative, and manipulated process photography.
  - a. Conceptual photography often uses color, light, shadow, texture, shape, and form to convey emotion, sensation, or a statement. This includes digital manipulation (photoshop, etc.) that transforms and combines elements from different sources to create a new composition.
  - b. Process photography includes straight photography (darkroom processes), alternative photography (specific film types and chemical processes).
  - c. Manipulated photography includes hand and/or chemically altered or embellished processes.

**Awards:**

Best in Show - Ralph H. Marler, Jr. Award - \$500 and Ribbon

People's Choice - \$100 and Ribbon (decided by public and awarded a week from the last day of the exhibition)

1st Place in each category - \$150 and Ribbon

2nd Place in each category - \$100 and Ribbon

3rd Place in each category - \$75 and Ribbon

**Eligibility:**

The exhibition is open to all photographers whose primary source of income is not photography. The photographs entered must be the original works of the photographer submitting and should not contain any computer generated, or A.I., photos, edits, filters, or fills. The juror's decision as to awards and to the selection of works to be exhibited is final.

Public display of disagreements or arguments pertaining to the juror's decisions may result in removal from the exhibition. All work must have been completed by the submitter and not previously shown in any WAG exhibits within the last two years or since 2024. Works previously accepted into and shown in the Gallery as a part of the Blue Ridge Overview cannot be submitted again. If you so choose, works that were cut by a juror and have never been exhibited during the Blue Ridge Overview can be resubmitted.

**Fee:**

A nonrefundable fee of \$10 per photograph is required for each entry. Current Wilkes Art Gallery supporters and patrons of the Annual Funds Drive are entitled to two or five free entries to juried exhibitions depending on the level of giving (Individual-Family supporters receive two free entries and Artist-Rembrandt supporters/patrons receive five free entries). You do not have to be a supporter of the Annual Funds Drive to participate in the Blue Ridge Overview. No limit is placed on the number of submissions; however 3 photos maximum from each photographer will be selected per category, and 100 images or less will be selected for the exhibition. The Gallery will retain a 40% commission on all sales. ONLY one piece per five pieces entered may be from the artist's collection and/or labeled NFS (not for sale). For example, if you submit under five pieces to the entire show, all work will need to be for sale. If you have any questions, please contact Brooke Horn or Marina Baxley at 336-667-2841.

**Notification:**

Please include all contact information on the enclosed form so we may contact you in regards to the status of your entries.

Participants will be notified when pieces have been judged and accepted/rejected. Rejected pieces must be picked up prior to the opening night reception. If you are not able to pick up rejected pieces before the opening reception, please contact the Gallery at your earliest convenience.

**Specifications:**

- All work must be ready to display, matted or mounted on a white mat board with photos taped securely and no tape showing. No framed works will be accepted. Matted prints must have window-cut mats. Mat size of 16" x 20" inches is required, regardless of photograph print size. Wilkes Art Gallery supplies 16" x 20" glass and clip framing for exhibiting. The minimum print size is 80 square inches. Shrink wrap and protective coverings will be removed from all pieces and stored for the duration of the exhibition. Signatures are not allowed on the front of mats or photographs.
- Identification labels must be attached to the back, top right corner. Please provide all required information for labels. A sales price must be given. Remember: Only 1 in every 5 photos entered can be labeled as not for sale.
- Artists must categorize their submitted works based on the themed categories listed above. If you have questions on which category a piece may belong to, please contact the Gallery or speak with Brooke Horn and/or Marina Baxley on submission drop-off dates.

- No computer generated or A.I. photographs or photographs that contain A.I. edits, filters, or fills will be accepted. Digital manipulation must be done by the photographer and not done with the use of A.I. or computer generated features. Providing the mediums of entries will be mandatory in order to ensure that A.I. work is not entered. Accepted mediums include film, digital, conceptual/alternative process, or smartphone.
- Accepted works must remain in the Gallery for the duration of the exhibition.

**Dates:**

- Entries will be accepted at Wilkes Art Gallery on Friday, January 2nd, 2026 from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM and Saturday, January 3rd, 2026 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Entries will NOT be accepted prior to or after these dates.
- Entries that are not accepted into the exhibition should be picked up no later than Thursday, January 15th, 2026. Please contact the Gallery if you need to schedule a pick up after January 15th, 2026.
- All unsold work may be picked up at the end of the exhibition on Friday, February 13th, 2026 and Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 from 11 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Works not picked up within 30 days from February 13th, 2026 will become property of Wilkes Art Gallery.

**Liability:**

- Wilkes Art Gallery reserves the right to utilize entries on social media for advertising
- Wilkes Art Gallery reserves the right not to display works submitted.

## **Artist Agreement**

**Name**

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**Address**

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**Phone**

**Email**

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Please sign below to state that all guidelines have been reviewed. This will act as an artist contract between the artist and the Gallery. All guidelines must be followed upon submission of this signed document.

**Artist Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Inventory**

Title of Work and Medium Used	Selling Price	Category #
	(if not for sale, please put NFS and a value for insurance purposes)	
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____

# Labels

All artwork that is submitted to Wilkes Art Gallery must have a label. Labels must be attached to the back of each piece, situated at the top right corner of two-dimensional pieces and attached on the back or bottom of three dimensional pieces.

<p><b>Title:</b></p> <hr/>	<p><b>Title:</b></p> <hr/>	<p><b>Title:</b></p> <hr/>
<p><b>Category + Inventory #:</b></p> <hr/>	<p><b>Category + Inventory #:</b></p> <hr/>	<p><b>Category + Inventory #:</b></p> <hr/>
<p><b>Artist:</b></p> <hr/>	<p><b>Artist:</b></p> <hr/>	<p><b>Artist:</b></p> <hr/>
<p><b>Price:</b> _____ For Sale /Not For Sale</p>	<p><b>Price:</b> _____ For Sale /Not For Sale</p>	<p><b>Price:</b> _____ For Sale /Not For Sale</p>
<p><b>Circle Medium:</b> Digital   Film   Smartphone Conceptual Process   Alternative Process</p>	<p><b>Circle Medium:</b> Digital   Film   Smartphone Conceptual Process   Alternative Process</p>	<p><b>Circle Medium:</b> Digital   Film   Smartphone Conceptual Process   Alternative Process</p>
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