

54th Annual



DVSA  
*Art  
Auction*

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

HAVE YOUR WORK BOUGHT BY ONE –  
SEEN BY THOUSANDS



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR 54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EVENT

2024 delivered our biggest art auction ever – a new record for artwork submissions, sales and participating bidders. As we gear up for our 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction returning this March/April, we're seizing on that momentum – we can't wait to once again to fill our website and studio walls with work created by our contributing artists. We'll bring even more art lovers into the DVSA fold, sell oodles of great pieces and in the process, raise essential funds for working artists and the school. **We're reaching out to request your much-needed support by submitting artwork for what is our most important fundraising event of the year.**

Bidding on Timed Auction artwork for this 54<sup>th</sup> edition will be online beginning Monday, March 31 with in-school previews available throughout the week. The marquee Live Auction Night returns on Friday, April 4, featuring a range of selected works. Timed Auction items will begin closing online on Saturday, April 5 and continue into the weekend.

### **Submission Changes For 2025**

We've made some alterations to our submission guidelines. Please be sure to review them on the accompanying **Artist Information** sheet.

May we count on your support? Included with this letter is all the pertinent information about submitting your artwork. **Intake begins February 3 and runs until March 5.** Submitted pieces may be a full donation or you may choose to have 25% or 50% of the selling price returned to you with a tax receipt for the amount donated to the school.

The funds raised from the success of this event enables DVSA to continue fulfilling its mission of championing creativity and offering high quality and accessible visual art programming for the Hamilton region. Thank you for your ongoing support.

We hope you'll take part again this year and look forward to seeing you during the artwork intake period.

With regards,

Keir Overton  
Director of Marketing, Events and Digital Strategy

**Please be sure to refer to the enclosed Artist's FAQ sheet for complete auction submission and bid guidelines, plus other applicable information.**

# 54th Annual Art Auction – Artist Information Sheet

Updated information always available at [www.dvsa.ca](http://www.dvsa.ca)



## Key Dates

- February 3 – March 5, 2025: Art submissions accepted at the school.
- March 31 – April 6: Online bidding and in-school preview days.
- April 4: Live Auction Night
- April 5 – 6: Timed Auction items close online
- April 10 – 12: Post Auction sale of remaining work.
- April 25: Deadline for pick-up of unsold work.
- May 31: Last date for cheques and tax receipts to be mailed to artists.

## Why We Hold The Auction

- This is our most important fundraising event of the year, with proceeds directly benefitting the local artistic community and funding our high-quality visual arts education programs for the region.

## For your artwork submission and support of this fundraising event, you will receive:

- Exposure to thousands of art lovers and collectors in the Hamilton region and nation wide – all who visit the online auction to bid on art over the week.
- A tax receipt for submissions that are 100% donations to the school  
OR
- The option of either 25% or 50% of the selling price paid to you and a tax receipt for the amount donated to the school (with a minimum value of \$20 per item).

## Artwork Submission Guidelines (Updated – Please Review)

- Artwork accepted includes paintings, pastels, drawings, lino/etching/woodblock prints, photography, sculpture, pottery, glass, fibre art and jewellery. **Pieces should not exceed 36" x 48". We will not take in AI generated or embellished prints. Paint pour works will be limited. Also no diptychs/triptychs, please (due to hanging logistics).**
- **Original artwork only (no reproductions).** Unsold work from previous years will not be accepted. Priority is given to work by practicing artists. Donations of previously purchased artwork must be first approved by the auction coordinator – [keiro@dvsa.ca](mailto:keiro@dvsa.ca).
- We aim to accept at least 1 submission per artist. Additional works (5 maximum for 2D) are accepted based on space limitations, salability and an artists' past sales. Not all works may be selected for the auction.
- **A completed contract must accompany each of your pieces.** Extra contracts are available at the school or online at [dvsa.ca](http://dvsa.ca).
- **Keep reserve bids within reason.** Setting an opening bid lower than the value of the artwork encourages a "bidding war" that can send prices higher than expected.
- Attach one copy of your biography to the back of each work submitted and bring ONE extra biography for administrative purposes.
- **All 2-D work MUST be ready to hang (framed with HANGING WIRE),** the exception being works on stretched canvas (wired only, frame optional). **Unwired work will not be accepted.**

## Live Auction Night

- All works submitted by March 5 will be considered for inclusion in the Live Auction Night on April 4
- Works for the Live Auction are selected by a committee process. The committee considers the artistry and subject, plus the potential saleability of the piece in relation to past auction buying trends.



# The Art Auction Submission FAQ

## Answers for first timers and long-time supporters

### **I think I understand how the auction works, but could you just go over it one more time?**

All artwork submitted and accepted is included in the online Timed Auction. Over the course of the week, art lovers view and bid on the timed auction pieces online. Bidders can also visit the school in person to see the artwork displayed throughout. Auction bidding comes to a close on the Sunday. If you choose to make your submission a 75/25 or 50/50 split contribution, you will receive a cheque and tax receipt from DVSA after the auction for the sale of your piece(s).

### **How does the Live Auction work?**

Each piece submitted before the submission deadline is reviewed and considered for inclusion in the Live Auction event. Works are selected by a committee process. The committee considers several factors: the artistry and subject, the media, the size, the history of the piece and the artist, the reserve bid and the potential saleability of the piece in relation to past auction buying trends.

### **Do I need an appointment when dropping off my auction submission?**

No. We take submissions during regular business hours and no appointment is needed. If you would like our auction coordinators to advise on and/or review your work for acceptance, plan your visit between 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. When you come in, mention to our front desk team that you have an auction submission and they will direct you. We recommend having your paperwork (artist contract) completed beforehand.

### **How many pieces can I submit?**

It's always quality over quantity. For first timers, we recommend one to two smaller pieces. For established auction artists, we will review space availability and the sales of your previous year(s) to gauge the number we will accept. **The maximum is 5 works (excluding 3D pieces).**

### **The information sheet states that due to limited space, not all work submitted may be accepted. Will I be contacted if my work is not accepted?**

You'll be contacted soon after making your submission if there is an issue. The main reasons for not accepting artwork are limited space (we only have so much online capacity and in-school space for displaying work), the pieces are too big, there are too many, or they are not framed/wired properly. All contracts are scanned and emailed to artists after submission to confirm acceptance.

### **What is the Starting Bid and is that determined by DVSA? And what does "Replacement Value" mean on the artist's contract?**

Replacement Value refers to the value of your artwork should compensation be required in the very rare case of damage/theft/loss.

The Starting (aka Reserve) Bid is your preferred minimum price for the artwork and where the bidding will begin. We always recommend starting your reserve bid a bit lower and letting it build. Our guideline is 1/3 of the retail value, however, this does depend upon the work. Often, once a person bids on your piece, others take notice and begin to up the bids. Unfortunately, each year, we have superb pieces that do not sell because the starting bid was set too high. We recommend finding a balance between what you feel your work is worth and what might spark a "bidding war." **Setting a lower price than usual in order to generate interest ultimately helps us sell more art for what is an important fundraiser for the school and an important source of income for artists.**

