

HOLOCAUST ART CONTEST GUIDELINES 2026 (Grades 5-8)

Art as Memory: Keeping Stories Alive

- 1) Art contest open to students in grades 5-8 in TN and surrounding states.
- 2) One entry per student.
- 3) Entries may be in the form of a painting, drawing, diorama, collage, or sculpture. Canvases may not exceed 4x4 feet.
- 4) All entries must be brought to the Memphis Jewish Federation office, 6560 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38138, by **4:00 pm on Monday, March 23, 2026.**

Each entry must include a one-page attachment with name, address, phone number, email address, name of school and teacher, grade, and a one-paragraph explanation of theme, message, and design concept. Attachment should be taped to the back of the work. (Do not print your name on front of artwork).

- 5) This attachment, along with a photo of the artwork, should also be emailed to HolocaustArtContest@gmail.com by **4 pm on Monday, March 23, 2026.**
- 6) Entries should explore the following topic: **Art as Memory: Keeping Stories Alive**
- 7) When thinking about this topic, read/watch a Holocaust story of one person and choose one or more of the following to preserve the memory of that individual.
 - **Show a moment of courage** — an act of resistance, dignity, or moral strength in the face of fear.
 - **Express a moment of loss** — the absence of loved ones, communities, or a vanished world.
 - **Depict a moment of connection** — kindness, compassion, or shared humanity amid suffering.
 - **Capture a moment of survival** — the will to endure, the spark of life that refused to be extinguished.
 - **Portray a moment of silence** — giving voice through emptiness to those who can no longer speak.
 - **Reflect a moment of liberation** — the complex emotions of freedom, grief, and rebirth.
 - **Honor a moment of remembrance** — how we continue to recall and bear witness through generations.

- **Illustrate a moment of legacy** — the passing of memory and truth from those who lived it to those who remember.
 - **Reveal a moment of truth** — the power of testimony to confront denial and preserve history.
 - **Celebrate a moment of faith or identity** — the enduring strength of spirit, culture, or belief.
 - **Inspire a moment of hope** — the rebuilding of life, the triumph of humanity, and the promise of “Never Again.”
- 8) Judging will be based on the following criteria: originality, creativity, passion, message conveyed, connection to the themes and usage of colors, symbols, and proportions.
 - 9) First Place cash prize of \$200; Second Place: \$100; Third Place: \$50. Gift cards for Honorable Mention. Contest awards provided by the Kaethe Mela Family Memorial Fund of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. Kaethe, her husband Paul and their 17-year-old daughter Doris lost their lives at Auschwitz.
 - 11) A photo of the winning artwork will be published on the program cover for Memphis Jewish Federation’s 2026 community-wide Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Observance event, scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026. All winners will be publicly recognized at the commemoration.
 - 12) First-place artwork becomes the property of Memphis Jewish Federation. All other pieces must be picked up from the MJF office, 6560 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38138 by May 8, 2026, or they will be discarded.

Suggested Resources:

- [Yad Vashem. The World Holocaust Remembrance Center](#)
- Yad Vashem: Survivor Testimonies www.yadvashem.org/collections/testimonies.html.
- [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
- US Holocaust Memorial Museum - Survivor Reflections and Testimonies
<https://www.ushmm.org/remember/holocaust-reflections-testimonies>
- [USC Shoah Foundation](#)
- [Simon Wiesenthal Center](#)
- [Facing History and Ourselves](#)
- <https://www.rondarobinson.com/index.php/journalism/holocaust/108-75-years-after-the-holocaust-a-violin-returns>

- <https://www.rondarobinson.com/index.php/journalism/holocaust/91-the-ballerina-of-auschwitz>
- <https://www.rondarobinson.com/index.php/journalism/holocaust/95-hiding-in-a-vegetable-bin-saved-their-lives>
- <https://www.rondarobinson.com/index.php/journalism/holocaust/82-a-magic-trick-in-auschwitz>

Memphis Jewish Federation is not responsible for any damage to artwork that may incur.
Please direct questions to Carrie Richardson at crichardson@jcpmemphis.org

Revised on 11/19/2025