



3x3 Call for Entries 23 Deadline: March 27, 2026



We're pleased to be entering our 23rd year of celebrating the very best of illustration from around the globe. Last year our judges viewed over 5,200 images from forty-four countries and ninety-nine schools before selecting our 2025 winners.

Fifty-seven percent of our merit and medalists were from outside the United States, helping once again to establish us as a truly international show.

What else makes our show unique? Categories. We have more categories than any other show. Why you ask? We feel illustrators benefit from having their work judged in specific categories as opposed to general ones. That way apples are being judged with apples, giving illustrators a better chance of winning.

3x3 is considered one of the top three international shows for illustration. Our judges are some of the top art directors and illustrators working today. So, please read on about how to enter and have your work seen.

Eligibility

Open to *all* illustrators, art directors, graphic designers, educators, students, recent graduates, editors, publishers in *all* countries for commissioned, non-commissioned and personal work produced or published between March 2025 and our show deadline, March 27, 2026.

One thing of note, with all the discussions happening around AI-generated artwork please know that we only accept illustrations where the illustrator or their representative or publication hold the copyright. We do not accept AI-generated images.

Show Judges

We're pleased to have a distinguished group of art directors and illustrators judging this year's show

Kristina DiMatteo, Creative Director, *The New York Times*

Kelly Krause, Creative Director, *Nature*

Luke Hayman, Partner, Pentagram NY

Fatinha Ramos, Illustrator, Portugal/Belgium

Thomas Fuchs, Illustrator, Germany

Miriam Martincic, Illustrator

Taylor Callery, Illustrator

and more to come...

Deadline

Our show is open, to avoid late fees enter your work by **March 27, 2026, Midnight EST**

Late deadline April 3, 2026—entry fees increase by \$10

Enter at www.3x3mag.com/shows

Categories

- 01** Advertising
- 02** Animation/Motion
- 03** Books
 - 03a)** General Audience, *Published*
 - 03b)** General Audience, *Unpublished*
 - 03c)** Picture Books, *Published*
 - 03d)** Picture Books, *Unpublished*
 - 03e)** Young Adult, *Published*
 - 03f)** Young Adult, *Unpublished*
- 04** Character Design
- 05** Children's Illustration
 - 04a)** Published
 - 04b)** Unpublished
- 06** Comics, Sequential, Zines
 - 05a)** Published
 - 05b)** Unpublished
- 07** Corporate Communication
- 08** Covers
 - 07a)** Magazines
 - 07b)** Books
 - 07c)** Picture Books
 - 07d)** Newspapers
- 09** Editorial
 - 08a)** Conceptual
 - 08b)** Food & Beverage
 - 08c)** Lifestyle
 - 08d)** Portraits
 - 08e)** Sports
 - 08f)** Other
- 10** Ephemera
- 11** Gallery
- 12** Games
- 13** Murals
- 14** Packaging
- 15** Posters
 - 15a)** Published
 - 15b)** Unpublished
- 16** Sci-Fi
 - 16a)** Published
 - 16b)** Unpublished
- 17** Self-Promotion
- 18** Surface Design
- 19** Three-Dimensional
- 20** Unpublished

How to Enter

Images for judging purposes must be 1024-pixels on the longest side, 72 dpi, RGB, jpg. Animation entries may be entered as a URL or uploaded as a mp4, gif or Quicktime file. We will request hi-res files from all winners for reproduction.

For books or comics, enter the *front cover* and *three to four* representative spreads digitally. You may chose to enter all books with or without text, however we do request the cover include the title as published.

Your entry may be a Single entry or a Series (2–5 images). There is no limit on how many entries you may enter. **Note:** You may enter two to five images from the same project, and add additional images (up to ten images) for an additional fee.

Keep in mind a Series is judged as a whole. You may want to consider entering one or more images as Single entries as well.

Fees

Professional Show

A Single entry is \$35. A Series of two to five images with a similar theme is \$70 (\$5 per each additional image, up to ten images). Animation entries, Single \$55, Series \$95.

Our Publication Fee for a winning entry is \$85 (Single or Series) which includes publication in our print and digital Annual plus online gallery. Winners receive a free social media badge, a free digital certificate or can choose to receive an embossed printed certificate at cost.

Important: By entering our show you agree to paying the

publication fee to have your winning entries displayed in our Annual.

Honorable Mention fee, \$50, includes inclusion in the online gallery, free listing in the Annual and digital certificate.

Student Show

A Single entry is \$20, a Series of two to five images with a similar theme is \$40 (\$5 per each additional image, up to ten images).

Student Winners do *not* pay a Publication Fee.

Awards

Best of Show winners receive \$1,500 cash prize, Gold medal winners receive inclusion in the preeminent 3x3 Collective (\$850 cash value).

Best of Show, Gold and Silver medalists receive our celebrated 3×3×3-inch cube. All other medalist, merit and distinguished merit winners receive a free digital certificate or can choose to receive a distinctive embossed certificate.

All medalists are showcased in the Annual with a 2-page spread.

Honorable Mention winners receive a digital certificate. All awards will be promoted on our website and social media.

Gary Powell Student Award

All student winners become finalists for our special student award. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash award, a special 3x3x3-inch cube, and a two-page feature in the Annual.

Gary Powell (1962–2017) was a leading illustrator and

educator in the United Kingdom for over 25 years. We are pleased to honor his memory.

The Annual

All medal and merit winners will be featured in our full-color, 400+ page printed and digital edition Annual and online gallery. Our Honorable Mentions may choose to be displayed online and listed in the Annual. All winners and Honorable Mentions will be listed on our site.

All winners will receive a 10% discount on purchasing the print or digital edition. The Annual will be distributed in the first quarter of 2027.

A free digital edition link will be sent to leading art directors and art buyers giving further exposure to all winners. Art directors also receive a hefty discount on purchase of the Annual.

We look forward to sharing your work with this year's distinguished panel of judges.



**Further details are available at
3x3mag.com/shows**

Category Information

If you have a question about which category to enter please contact coordinator@3x3mag.com.

Advertising

Work created to sell a product or service commissioned by an advertising agency or direct client. Examples include consumer or trade ads in magazines, newspapers, special supplements, outdoor billboards or point-of-purchase. Also included are online advertising, websites and banner ads. Posters for theaters, movies or music events should be entered in the Posters category.

Books

For books, picture books, comics or graphic novels enter the front cover with title and three to four representative spreads digitally. You may chose to enter all books with or without text, however the cover must include the title as published. Published and unpublished books are accepted.

Corporate Communication/Institutional

Work generated by commissions from an institution, corporate entity or government department. Examples include invitations, announcements, websites, blogs, annual reports, calendars, corporate newsletters and in-house publications. Wall graphics and murals should be entered under the Murals category.

Editorial

Work commissioned by newspapers or magazines, including online magazines. Animated gifs should be entered in the Animation/Motion category.

Ephemera

Work created for invitations, announcements, wedding invitations, calendars, greeting cards, shopping bags or stamps.

Gallery

Art specifically created for sale in exhibits, gallery shows or online.

Packaging

Work that includes three-dimensional projects for consumer products, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, food, retail, audio/video and software.

Posters

Work created for promotion of a product or service including self-promotion, theater, music events or pro-bono promotions.

Self-Promotion

Work specifically used to promote your illustration including promotional mailings, emails, websites, directory ads, greeting cards and calendars.

Surface Design

Work created for merchandise such as pillows, tapestries, clothing as well as for wrapping paper or wallpaper.

Unpublished

Work that is self-generated including personal or experimental work that has not been published or exhibited. Exhibited work should be entered in the Gallery category.