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The Covington-Rhode Senior Prize in Art at The University of New Mexico recognizes the outstanding achievement of our undergraduate art students during their senior year, to promote professionalism and excellence in the visual arts, and motivates and encourages all art students to achieve their fullest potential throughout their years in the program. As a competitive award, the competition will be open to graduating seniors (undergraduates) earning a degree in the Art Department who have a studio practice and will give them experience exhibiting their artwork and participating in a professional evaluation. The recipient(s) will be recognized at the College of Fine Arts spring convocation.

The Award:

The Covington-Rhode Senior Prize will be awarded to an individual senior artist or artists of superior promise and demonstrable ability.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is limited to students majoring in Art at the UNM Department of Art who will receive their undergraduate degree between the fall and spring semester of the current academic year. Failure to meet this requirement will disqualify any participant or award winner. Students who have entered once cannot qualify again.

Applying for the Senior Prize:

All seniors wishing to participate in the competition must email their completed application to the UNM Department of Art office at art@unm.edu on **Monday, March 9, 2026**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Students will receive a receipt of the application by email.

The online application will be submitted by attaching two PDFs

1. One PDF is the application form is available on the APPLY link on this.
2. This is an editable PDF; please download it and fill it out.
3. The second PDF should include the following 3 parts:
 - Your portfolio with a title page with your name, 10 images, including the title, date, dimensions, and materials of the work. Please provide links to YouTube or Vimeo for video or time-based media.
 - A 100-word Artist Statement



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- One to two-page Resume

Selection of Student Participants & Prize Winners:

The UNM Art faculty will review and score the online applications, and score each submission. All students will be considered equally, regardless of specialization or major. The faculty will exercise their decision based on material evidence in the application, as well as a creative activity. Criteria employed in selecting nominees are creativity, craftsmanship, and potential for professional development.

The students with the most votes will move on to the next level of the selection process, which will be judged by the Covington-Rhode Prize Jury Committee. The committee will be comprised of five professors in art (will rotate annually), one of whom teaches the Studio Art Capstone Class. Students will be notified of their status in April.

The selected finalists will be notified and will be asked to make a formal presentation of their original work in a one-week exhibition for review in late April or early May at the John Sommers Gallery. The students will draw for space and install their own portion of the exhibition. On the exhibition's opening day, the Covington-Rhode Prize Jury will view and evaluate each student's exhibition and select the Covington-Rhode Award winner(s). The winner(s) will be honored in an awards ceremony at the exhibition and at the CFA Spring Convocation.