

# Neuro-Art Competition

Loyola University Chicago's Dana Program for Neuroscience & Society is funding a neuro-art competition to encourage creative exploration and expression of the beauty inherent in neuroscience discovery, brain structure and function, neurotechnology, and the consequent ethical ramifications. CSfN is pleased to support this effort.

**Awards:** First place, \$500, second place \$400, third place, \$300. The artwork remains owned by the artist, but we reserve the right to publish images of the work.

**Eligibility:** Trainees (undergraduate to postdoc) from Illinois and surrounding states who attend the CSfN meeting are welcome to submit one work. Preference will be given to entrants who did not receive awards in our earlier competitions.

**Media:** As you wish, including but not limited to 2-dimensional images, sculpture, graphics/animation/video, light work, music, dance. Please discuss plans for large format work with the contact person (see below) prior to beginning the work.

**Subject matter:** The work should convey and react to an important neuroscientific concept derived from research. E.g., some nerve cells are strikingly beautiful by themselves, but a piece that reacts to (and conveys) the capacity of the neuron to undergo localized structural changes that mediate learning would be favored, at least in terms of subject matter. We encourage artists to express or elevate awareness of a societal impact associated with the concept, particularly involving a dilemma. Purely representational work, or images of data that have been processed through a filter of some kind will not be competitive (though they may be beautiful). In that sense, this is not an art competition, but an art-science competition. As with any art competition, aesthetics, creativity, and the expression of the artist's unique perspective on/reaction to the topic are heavily weighed. Artists are welcome to consult with neuroscience students and faculty to identify/refine concepts and develop a work that creatively reflects a scientific or technological concept. Neuroscience trainees who are not artists but have ideas for a submission may work with artists to develop an interpretation of their ideas. We recommend that teams decide how to divide the award should they win before submitting the work.

A critical component of the submission is a description of less than one page, single-spaced. The description should explain the scientific concept that inspired the work and also address some of the linkages between the scientific concept and the artistic expression (if none are obvious). The 2024 submissions can be [found here](#). Please use the descriptions of the top 3 finishers (numbered) as a template for fonts and layout for your description (or you will need to resubmit).

**Due Date:** Jpeg images of works and a separate Word document with the description should be emailed to the contact person (see below) by **February 13, 2026**. By February 17, up to 10 works will be selected for display at the Chicago Society for Neuroscience (CSfN) meeting at the University of Illinois Chicago campus on February 27. The top three works will be selected and announced at the meeting. The artist needn't be present, but it is unlikely that your work will be selected if it is not present. Note that we cannot guarantee the safety of your work at the meeting. We don't anticipate theft or damage to any of the works but having someone (hopefully you) standing by your work when it is displayed may provide protection from the unexpected. If your work is selected for the meeting, we recommend framing it or providing some form of protection (plastic or cardboard, etc.). Your work must be removed by you or someone permitted by you by the end of the meeting.

**Judges:** Members of the CSfN Art Committee will vote on the works at both stages (pre-meeting and at the meeting) of the competition. *The committee reserves the right to not select an awardee from the submissions.* This would not be an indictment of the quality of the submissions; it signifies that the submissions either did not suit the committee members' tastes or did not fit the guidelines.

**Contact:** Prof. Bill Rochlin, Biology Dept, Loyola University Chicago, by email at [wrochli@luc.edu](mailto:wrochli@luc.edu).