

What are Spring Prizes?

Spring Prize competition dates back to the earliest days of PAFA's Certificate program – in the early 1800's. There are many prizes (many endowed from long ago) awarded at the beginning of the Annual Student Exhibition (ASE) installation period.

How can I find out what the prizes are?

Nearer the time, you can pick up the [Spring Prize booklet](#), which lists all the prizes. It also tells you what kind of work you can submit for each prize and, most importantly, if you are eligible for that prize. Read the booklet carefully – you can submit work for as many prizes as you are eligible for, although generally you can only submit one piece of work per prize.

Can I win money?

Yes. Most prizes come with a money award, mostly small. Any prize you win is also reflected on your transcript. You may get an "Honorable Mention" for a prize – these don't have a money award, but still look good on your resume. Some awards are scholarships, which are credited to students' next year tuition bills.

Do I have to be showing in the ASE to submit for a prize?

No. The ASE and Spring Prizes are actually separate things. They just take place around the same time.

I find submitting work to really stressful. Do I have to take part in this?

No. We encourage you to get used to the submission process – it's part of being a practicing artist – but Spring Prizes are completely optional. Why not submit just one or two pieces, just for practice?

I'm an MFA/PB student. I can't help noticing that these prizes are only for Certificate and BFA students. Why is that?

The vast majority of these prizes were set up many years ago for Certificate students, long before the graduate programs existed. Bear in mind too, that many of these prizes are for \$50. No Certificate/BFA student is getting rich by winning them! PAFA continues to work with donors to establish awards dedicated specifically for the graduate program.

When are Spring Prizes judged?

In late April. Keep your eyes open for announcements by email, in the Weekly Update and in the elevators.

How, where, when etc?

Calm yourself....all will become clear. Forms and locations and a whole bunch of other stuff is coming your way. This is just an introduction.

Can I enter for the Travel Scholarships?

Travel scholarships are actually part of the ASE, so only Certificate / BFA and MFA students showing in the ASE can enter to win a travel scholarship. These scholarships are awarded based on your exhibited body of work, not just one piece.

Tell me more about Travel Scholarships....

Ah yes, the coveted travel scholarships. There are different kinds –Some only allow you to travel in Europe. Some cover tuition for your next year at PAFA. Some are only for 3rd year Certificate students, some for MFAs. All are fabulous. You'll get more information when you are eligible for the ASE.

I keep hearing this phrase – "prizes from the wall" – what does this mean?

For the majority of prizes, you need to actually submit work on a specific day. However, there are some prizes reserved exclusively for students showing in the ASE, and these are judged from ASE walls without submissions. Either judges come in from the outside and award prizes, or faculty choose them – it depends on the prize. This means it's really important to check the posted list of prize winners even if you didn't *submit* for anything – you could still be a winner! Check the Spring Prizes booklet when it comes out to see which prizes these are.

If I'm not showing in the ASE but if I win a Spring Prize, does my work get a space in the show?

We try really hard to make that happen. The majority of pieces will be hung, but we can't guarantee it since it depends on available space.

When do I get my award?

At the Spring Prize Ceremony – it's always on the morning of graduation at 11:00am.