



THE 40th ANNIVERSARY ROSEN OUTDOOR SCULPTURE COMPETITION & EXHIBITION, 2026-27

PROSPECTUS

This nationally recognized juried competition, established by Martin and Doris Rosen, has long served as a point of pride for **Appalachian State University** and is presented annually by **An Appalachian Summer Festival** and the **Turchin Center for the Visual Arts**. Each year, ten sculptures are selected for installation in outdoor public settings across the university campus. Cash prizes are awarded for first, second, and third place as well as for the Best in Show. Rosen Award winners are selected by the invited juror and are announced at the Annual Sculpture Walk in July, a highlight of An Appalachian Summer Festival.

The Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition is made possible by generous support from The Martin and Doris Rosen Giving Fund — courtesy of Debbie Rosen Davidson and David Rosen — and The Charles and Nancy Rosenblatt Foundation.

AWARDS AND HONORARIA

Ten finalists will be selected to install their artwork on the campus of **Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina**. All artists whose works are installed will receive a **\$2,200 travel stipend/honorarium** to offset round trip transportation, lodging, and incidental expenses. Any additional costs are the responsibility of the artist. The Rosen Sculpture Competition & Exhibition will cover the material costs of installation and de-installation. The **40th Anniversary Rosen Competition & Exhibition** will feature four cash prizes; all winners will be designated *Martin & Doris Rosen 40th Anniversary Award Winners*. **The top three artists will receive the following cash prizes: \$4,000 for First Place, \$3,000 for Second Place and \$2,000 for Third Place. The Best of Show Award recipient will receive \$5,000.** The Rosen Sculpture Competition & Exhibition offers a sales program, brochure/map, and extensive promotion as a featured exhibition in conjunction with both the **Turchin Center for the Visual Arts** and **An Appalachian Summer Festival** as well as permanent archiving on the Turchin Center website. For additional information and exhibition archive, please visit:

<https://tcva.appstate.edu/exhibition/40th-anniversary-martin-and-doris-rosen-sculpture-competition-exhibition/>

2026-2027 CALENDAR

Online Registration System Opens	January 20, 2026
Deadline for Entries	March 15 2026 @ 5 PM EST
Notifications Emailed	April 1, 2026
Installation Dates	May 21-22, 2026
Exhibition Dates	May 2026 - May 2027
Rosen Sculpture Walk & Reception	Saturday, July 11, 2026 @ 10 AM
De-installation	May 2027

JUROR'S INFORMATION

This year's juror is **Sam Spiczka**. Inspired by natural bone forms, rural technology, and geometric structure, **Sam Spiczka** has produced a distinctive body of work that is both modern and intensely primal, public, yet deeply personal. Born and raised in rural Minnesota, Spiczka became captivated by metal at an early age working in his family's welding shop. Though he briefly studied art and philosophy at Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter, Minnesota, his true education has come from nature, the example of past sculptors, and the craftsmanship taught to him by his father. Spiczka's award-winning sculptures have been exhibited internationally – including at the Seolbong International Sculpture Park in Icheon, South Korea, the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and the Franconia Sculpture Park in Taylors Falls, Minnesota. The Turchin Center is pleased to welcome **Sam Spiczka** as our distinguished juror for the **40th Anniversary Rosen Competition & Exhibition 2026-27**.

EXHIBITION GUIDELINES

- 1. The 40th Anniversary Rosen Competition & Exhibition** is open to artists currently residing in the USA who are 18 years of age or older. Ten completed works will be chosen for installation on the Appalachian State campus by this year's honored juror. **Works entered must have been completed within the last *five* years and not previously exhibited at Appalachian State University.** Submitted sculptures created earlier than 2021 will be eliminated from the competition. *All artists, professional, and amateur, are invited to participate in the 40th Annual Rosen Sculpture Competition & Exhibition!*
- 2. There is a \$45 entrance fee to be considered for the 40th Anniversary Rosen Competition & Exhibition.** Sculptures must be completed and ready for installation when submitted. The entrance fee of \$45 covers up to 3 sculptures; 5 images total may be uploaded to: <https://tvca.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87819> (*beginning January 20, 2026*); variant views are acceptable. Images of works in progress or models are **not eligible** for consideration. The competition may elect to exhibit more than one work from an artist with no additional honorarium available. The artist reserves the right to decline this request.
- 3.** The selected works are to be exhibited on the campus of Appalachian State University from May 2026 until May 2027. Sculptures are loaned for the time specified above and will not be returned until the exhibition period is completed.
- 4.** Artwork **MUST** be suitable for outdoor installation and:
 - a) be able to be secured to concrete pad or plaza with anchor bolts or similar devices,
 - b) be capable of withstanding adverse weather conditions including high winds, below zero temperatures, heavy rain, snow, ice, and storms, etc.... in a tempestuous mountain environment,
 - c) be able to withstand a high traffic university environment,
 - d) take into consideration the safety of a diverse audience; and,
 - e) be relatively maintenance free during the exhibition period.

Works not meeting the criteria listed above will not be considered for installation on the Appalachian State University campus.

5. Sculptors will be responsible for the delivery of the works to Boone, North Carolina, between **May 21-22, 2026**. Sculptors will be responsible for the removal of their sculptures during May 2027 – exact dates to be determined. Artists unable to meet the scheduled installation/de-installation requirements are not eligible for participation and honorarium will be forfeited.
6. This year's competition juror, Sam Spiczka will announce the Martin & Doris Rosen 40th Anniversary Award Winners on **Saturday, July 11, 2026**, during the annual Rosen Sculpture Walk, part of the annual Appalachian Summer. **Festivities begin at 10am.**
7. The *Rosen Sculpture Competition & Exhibition* reserves the right to photograph any submitted artwork for publicity, promotion, and archive purposes.
8. Sales are encouraged as the program has a history of sales to private and corporate collections. All sales are subject to 40% commission and applicable taxes.
9. Notice of Liability: All reasonable care and precaution will be taken in the handling and storing of materials submitted for this competition. Appalachian State University and the Rosen Sculpture Competition & Exhibition will provide insurance for the borrowed object(s) for the duration of the object's stay on App State's campus, provided that the sculpture meets all requirements stated in number four (4) above and that sculptor has completed all appropriate paperwork supplied by competition staff. Insurance will not cover damage to the artwork due to poor construction or craftsmanship while installing work or during shipping. Insurance will not cover materials used in the fabrication of a sculpture that are intended for deterioration, nor will insurance cover non-traditional material not intended for exterior use. A certificate of insurance will be provided upon request only.
10. Participation in the entry process constitutes a full understanding and acceptance of the conditions set forth above.

ENTRY PROCEDURES 2026-2027

1. **Application Information**
 - a. **Entries will be accepted beginning January 20, 2026.**
 - b. **The application deadline is Friday, March 6, 2026 @ 5 PM EST.**
No late entries will be accepted.
 - c. There will be a \$45 entry fee for the 40th Anniversary Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition. Please note, application fees cover administration costs.
 - d. The submission system is completely online (***beginning January 20, 2026***) at:
<https://tvca.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87819>
no mailed entries will be accepted.

- e. Please contact Mary Anne Redding, senior curator, at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts: reddingm@appstate.edu with questions or assistance with the application process.

2. Submitting Information & Images

- a. Please access: <https://tvca.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87819>; (*beginning January 20, 2026*) to provide information for each entry and upload your digital images. Instructions will be provided online via Slideroom to lead you through this process.
- b. **Only .jpg or .pdf files may be considered.**

If there are questions or concerns, the Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition staff will be happy to answer questions and assist with the entry process as needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

40th Annual Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition
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For additional information, online prospectus and exhibition archive, visit:

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To access the online support system for your submission
please contact: support@slideroom.com



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