

APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION
CALL FOR ENTRY

**24th Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition, “Staring at a Glimpse,” at the
Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, on view February 5 - June 5, 2027**

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts (TCVA) announces the call for entry to the upcoming 24th Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition (AMPC) exhibition. This year’s exhibition will be juried by Maggie Flanigan, artist and Director of the AFA Visual Arts program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, who chose, “Staring at a Glimpse” as this year’s exhibition theme. Flanigan says:

“I’m forever trying to know this place. To learn by working its endless puzzles, every mountain, neighbor’s story, church, and river. Rather than searching for answers, I’ve become interested in the ghosts that linger within them.

Ghosts are not always supernatural beings. Rather than something to fear, ghosts are evidence that something needs our attention. They are histories, absences, environmental change, lost industries, displacement, grief, rituals, collective emotion, and unresolved questions. The region has always carried its own hauntings, but I wonder what new ghosts we are creating. The things that haunt us are the things we love, inherit, mourn, and, often, what we’ve yet to understand. What losses, silences, inheritances, and unprocessed feelings will remain long after we’re gone?

Photography has always occupied a space between presence and absence. Every photograph is evidence of a moment that no longer exists. This exhibition invites artwork that explores haunting in its broadest sense, encouraging work that considers the visible and invisible forces shaping communities and personal histories.”

The AMPC submission process opens Sept. 22, 2026 and includes both single-image and series submissions. For the single-image submission category, artists will be able to submit 1-5 stand alone images aligned with the theme of “Staring at a Glimpse” for \$15 dollars. The series submission option allows artists to submit 6-12 images from a singular body of work, also aligned with this year’s theme, for \$20 dollars. Selected artists from

this category will show six images chosen by the juror from their submitted series, highlighting AMPC's vision to support the expansion of Appalachian narratives.

The deadline for submissions is November 19, 2026. Artists will be notified of their acceptance on December 11, 2026 and will be expected to deliver their artwork to TCVA in Boone, NC, between January 5-8, 2027. Artists are responsible for transporting artwork to TCVA. TCVA will provide complimentary return shipping via FedEx/UPS to exhibiting artists.

Single-image submissions: <https://tvca.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/91425>

Series submissions: <https://tvca.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/91428>

The exhibition opens Friday, February 5, 2027 with a public reception that evening. People's Choice voting will take place in-person in the gallery through April 1, 2027. The public Awards Reception will kick off with an ARTtalk by juror Maggie Flanigan at 5pm in the Turchin Center Lecture Hall, followed by awards announcements and an evening of celebration as part of First Friday Art Crawl on April 2, 2027.

2026-2027 Dates

Online Submission System Opens: September 22, 2026

Deadline for Entries: November 19, 2026 @ 5 PM EST

Notifications Emailed: December 11, 2026

Artwork Delivery Dates: January 5-8, 2027

Exhibition Dates: February 5 – June 5, 2027

ARTtalk & Awards Reception: April 2, 2027 @ 5pm EST

JUROR INFORMATION

Maggie Flanigan is a North Carolina-based artist and educator whose photographic work interrogates the complexities of religion and community in the rural South. Using lens-based interventions to evoke the nonlinear nature of memory, her practice positions photography as a tool for resistance and reimagining in places where dominant narratives often obscure marginalized voices. Currently the Director of the AFA Visual Arts program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, the same place

where she first experienced formal education, she carries forward a commitment to teaching as a reciprocal exchange rooted in care and curiosity.

EXHIBITION GUIDELINES

1. The 24th Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition is open to artists currently residing in the USA who are 18 years of age or older. Works entered must have been completed within the last four years and not previously exhibited at Appalachian State University. **All artists, professional and amateur, are invited to participate!**
2. **There is a \$15 (single-image) or \$20 (series) submission fee to be considered for the 24th AMPC.** The juror will select artworks from each submission category for exhibition. Artworks must be completed and ready for installation when submitted.

SINGLE-IMAGE SUBMISSION: The entrance fee of \$15 allows artists to submit 1-5 stand alone images with descriptions. Artists selected from this category will be asked to deliver one image, specified by the juror, for exhibition.

SERIES SUBMISSION: The entrance fee of \$20 allows for 6-12 images from a single body of work with a series statement. Artists chosen from this category will be expected to frame and deliver six images of the juror's choosing for exhibition.

3. The selected works are to be exhibited at TCVA on the campus of Appalachian State University from February 5 – June 5, 2027. Artworks are loaned for the time specified above and will not be returned until the exhibition period is completed.
4. Artists and accepted artwork must meet the following guidelines:
 - a) Photographic prints, mats, frames, and other presentation material must be of museum-quality and professional finish to be accepted for exhibition. Framing guidelines will be delivered with finalist confirmations.
 - b) Artwork must be delivered to the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts (Attn: shauna caldwell, Associate Curator for Academic Engagement) January 5-8, 2027. If delivering in person, please drop off artwork during open hours (10am-5:30pm Tuesday-Thursday or 12-6pm Friday). *No late work can be accepted as the installation begins the following Monday in the gallery.*

c) TCVA reserves the right to photograph any submitted artwork for publicity, promotion, and archival purposes. Artwork may be utilized in a digital format for promotional materials, website content, and reproduced in printed materials connected with the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts.

d) If an artist chooses to list works of art for sale, the following applies: All sales made and/or arranged by TCVA, the artist will receive 60%. TCVA will add a 40% commission to artist base price.

e) 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 TCVA will provide insurance for the borrowed object(s) for the duration of the object's stay on Appalachian's campus, provided that the artwork meets all requirements stated above and that the artist 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. A certificate of insurance can be provided upon request.

f) Participation in the entry process constitutes a full understanding and acceptance of the conditions set forth above.

Works not meeting the criteria listed above will not be considered for installation.

AMPC staff is available to answer questions and assist with the entry process as needed. For more information and to submit:

CONTACT INFORMATION

shauna caldwell, Associate Curator for Academic Engagement

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Turchin Center for the Visual Arts – Appalachian State University

423 West King Street Boone, NC 28608

To access the online support system for your submission please contact:

support@slideroom.com

