

THE ART OF SERVICE

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR UNIVERSITY

The Kelly Fitzpatrick Center for the Arts is honored to partner with Air University Academic Services to host the third annual Art of Service exhibition in 2026. The exhibition will be held at the Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center (Building 1405) on Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Selected works will be displayed in the Main Lobby of Building 1405, centrally located within Air University's Academic Circle. Though modest in size, this highly trafficked space offers exceptional visibility. In addition to the physical exhibition, selected artworks will be featured digitally across the Air University Academic Services website and social media platforms.

Artists are invited to submit works that celebrate and reflect Maxwell Air Force Base—particularly Air University—its legacy, influence, and enduring mission. From the pioneering achievements of the Wright Brothers to today's advanced Professional Military Education, submissions should highlight themes of air superiority, innovation, and adaptive warfighter development. Artists are encouraged to depict campus buildings and monuments, historic and contemporary aircraft, and the lives of Airmen and their families connected to Maxwell AFB, Air University, and Air Force units throughout Montgomery, Alabama.

ABOUT AIR UNIVERSITY:

Air University (AU), headquartered at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, is a major component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and is the lead agent for Air Force education. AU provides the full spectrum of Air Force education, encompassing precommissioning programs for new officers; graduate programs in specialized military disciplines; progressive, career-long professional military development for officer, enlisted, and civilian Airmen; and specialized programs for US cabinet appointees, senior executive service (SES) civilians, and general officers.

AU Mission Statement: Access, train, educate and develop Air and Space warfighters in support of the National Defense Strategy.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/About>
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CATEGORIES:

1. Traditional: Artwork that is confined to a flat plane. Two-dimensional artworks should be in traditional mediums, such as oil, acrylic, watercolors, pastels, gouache, charcoal, etc.
2. Photography: Artwork made from a camera, either film or digital. Photography artworks should be purposeful rather than a snapshot. Please note that while post-processing and digital alterations to photographs are acceptable, AI generated imagery will be not be allowed.
3. 3-D Artworks: Artworks that “break” the two dimensional plane, possessing a spatial component to the art (physical depth). This includes sculpture and artwork that sizably protrudes from a plane.



IMPORTANT DATES:

June 7, 2026	Applications Due	TBD	Reception
June 13, 2026	Acceptance Notification	September 13, 2026	Exhibition Closes
June 26 & 27, 2026	Art Drop Off at The Kelly	September 15, 2026	Art Pick Up at The Kelly
July 1, 2026	Exhibition Opens		

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CONTINUED

GUIDELINES:

1. **Eligibility:** Open to civilians, military personnel, military veterans, and their families of at least 19 years of age.
2. **Artwork:**
 - Artwork cannot be copied from copyrighted materials. Please refer to The Kelly's "Originality and Copyright Infringement" guidelines for further clarification.
 - Artworks should be representational, though various styles (realistic, impressionistic, expressionistic, etc.) are accepted.
 - Artworks should be defined in one of the three categories: Traditional, Photography, and 3D.
 - Artworks should be at least 8" x 10" but no more than 30"x40" in size. Due to space constraints, we are only able to accept a limited number of large works.
3. **Application:** Space is very limited in this show, and entries will be juried. Each artist may submit up to two (2) entries. Submit a photo of each entry and a 50 to 100-word description per entry explaining why you believe your entry represents the theme of Maxwell and/or the Air University Library's influence on aviation. This description will be displayed next to your artwork on site during the exhibition as well. Send photos, descriptions, application form, and exhibition agreement to Exhibits@TheKelly.org or online at <https://thekelly.org/exhibitions/application/> by June 7th.
4. **Notification:** Artists will be notified of the selected items for this exhibition on or before June 13, 2026.
5. **Delivery:** Art should be delivered to the Kelly at 301 Hill Street, Wetumpka, AL 36092 on or before June 26 and 27th.
6. **Commission:** The Air University Library Academic Service Directorate at Maxwell AFB cannot sell or promote the sale of artworks. The Kelly will advertise the art (for sale or otherwise) on our website, accessible via a display QR code in the exhibit. A twenty-five percent (25%) donation to The Kelly will be deducted from any sales during this exhibit. If you have any pieces that are for display only and not for sale, please notate this clearly on the application form.
7. **Pick Up:** All artwork not sold by the end of the exhibit must be picked up by the artist or an authorized person on the artist's behalf by September 15, 2026. Artwork not picked up within ninety (90) days of the pick up date will be considered donations to The Kelly.

AWARDS:

- The Kelly's Choice Award: Chosen by The Kelly's juror(s).
- Commander's Choice Award: Chosen by select commanders on Maxwell-Gunter AFB.
- Patron's Choice Award: Visiting patrons will vote for their choice over the course of the exhibition.

The Air University Library Academic Service Directorate at Maxwell AFB cannot provide nor associate with monetary awards, but winners will be awarded with physical and digital certificates of excellence.

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Name: _____, hereafter referred to as the Exhibitor.

In consideration of The Kelly Fitzpatrick Center for the Arts (hereafter referred to as The Kelly) allowing the exhibitor to exhibit artwork either online or on the premises of The Kelly as a means of promoting the arts to the citizens of Wetumpka and the public, The Exhibitor, desiring to voluntarily participate in this Exhibit, does hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

The Kelly has the right to deny the exhibition of any particular piece of art or artwork, if in its sole discretion, it is deemed unsuitable for any reason to be displayed online or on its property.

The Kelly will insure the Object(s) under its Fine Arts Insurance policy wall-to-wall for the amount specified on the attached inventory against all risks of physical loss or damage from external causes on location during the period of this loan; provided, however, that if the Object(s) shall have been industrially fabricated or fabricated with industrially manufactured parts, and can be replaced to the artist's specifications, the amount of insurance shall be limited to the cost of replacement. If no value is listed on the reverse side, maximum coverage shall be the fair market value of the Object(s) at the time of loss or damage as determined by an appraisal from a mutually agreed upon expert.

The Kelly's insurance policy contains the standard exclusions for loss or damage due to war, invasion, hostilities, rebellion, insurrection, confiscation by order of any government or public authority, risks of contraband or illegal transportation and/or trade, nuclear damage, wear and tear, gradual deterioration, moths, vermin and inherent vice, and for damage sustained due to and resulting from any repairing, restoration or retouching process unless caused by fire and/or explosion. The Kelly is not responsible for prior damage nor damage incurred from material defects present prior to physical receipt and acceptance of the artwork by The Kelly.

The Exhibitor agrees that, in the event of loss or damage, recovery shall be limited to such amount, if any, as may be paid by the insurer, hereby releasing The Kelly, each of the Participating Kellys, and the trustees, officers, agents, and employees of The Kelly and any Participating Kellys from liability for any and all claims arising out of such loss or damage.

If the Exhibitor chooses to maintain their own insurance, The Kelly must be supplied with a certificate of insurance naming The Kelly and each of the participating locations as an additional insured or waiving subrogation against The Kelly and each of the participating locations. If the Exhibitor shall fail to supply The Kelly with such a certificate, this loan agreement shall constitute a release of The Kelly and each of the Participating Kellys from any liability in connection with the Object(s).

The Kelly is not responsible for any error or information deficiency furnished to the Exhibitor's insurer or for any lapses in coverage. The Kelly will not be liable for any misrepresentation of ownership or attribution. Government regulations will be adhered to in international shipments. As a rule, each party is responsible for adhering to its country's import/export requirements.

The Exhibitor does hereby authorize The Kelly, and their agents and assigns, to take and use photographs of their artwork for the purposes of preparing a catalog (either printed or on-line) and publicizing this event, in such manner and at such times as it deems appropriate. No other reproduction of the artwork is authorized.

Furthermore, the Exhibitor, individually and their heirs and assigns, does voluntarily waive, release, hold harmless, discharge, and indemnify The Kelly, from any and all claims that the Exhibitor and/or their heirs or assigns, may have in the future, including but not limited to property damage, that the Exhibitor may incur as a result of their participation in the Exhibit, whether directly connected to these activities or not, however caused, or as a result of the condition of the premises where the Exhibit occurs.

Finally, the Exhibitor does hereby agree to remove their artwork from The Kelly's premises within 90 days from the last date of public display for the Exhibit. The Exhibitor's failure to remove their artwork in 90 days shall mean that they have decided to convey the artwork to The Kelly as consideration for their displaying the art during the Exhibit. Should that event so occur, the Exhibitor does hereby grant, bargain, sell, and convey all their right, title, and interest in and to the artwork which is subject of this agreement unto The Kelly outright and in fee simple absolute, for them, their successors and assigns, to have and to hold forever, free from all contingencies and encumbrances thereon. This paragraph shall be null and void and of no force or effect should the Exhibitor remove their artwork within the allotted time following the end of the Exhibit.

I, THE EXHIBITOR, HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN ME AND THE KELLY.

I, the exhibitor, am over the age of nineteen and am signing this Agreement voluntarily and of my own free will, fully intending to be bound by its terms.

Dated this the _____ day of _____, 2026.

Exhibitor/Artist Signature

Witness Signature