

Announcing the return of our
Juried Art Show at the
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
and Alaska Writers Guild
Annual Writers and Illustrators Conference
September 18-19, 2026

The Juried Art Show is open to anyone in the state of Alaska, not just attendees of the conference, and it is **HUGE opportunity for Alaskan illustrators to get their work in front of editors, agents, and authors looking for an illustrator.**

Sean McCarthy, Agent at the Sean McCarthy Literary Agency will be judging Best in Show. The Best in Show winner and the People's Choice Award winner (where all conference attendees get a chance to vote as well) receive recognition at the conference and a Visa gift card to buy art supplies wherever you would like (\$50 for Best in Show; \$25 for People's Choice)!

Additionally, there will be about 140 people at the conference, some who will be self-publishing and need illustrators. We often get questions from authors on how to find illustrators. **THIS IS A PLACE THEY CAN FIND YOU!** Previous entrants have been commissioned to illustrate picture books.

If you are outside the Anchorage-MatSu-Valley-Girdwood area, and are a SCBWI member, you can even send us your physical portfolio or contest entry and we will enter it for you (see details below about how to arrange that). If you are not a SCBWI member, you can still enter, but you must drop it off yourself (details below).

We would appreciate it if you'd let us know by September 4th so we know how many tables we will need. We really hope you are going to show your work. We'd hate for you to miss out.

Prompt: "It made her think that it was curious how much nicer a person looked when he smiled. She had not thought of it before."

Here's what you need to do: Create 1 piece inspired by the prompt. Submit only your BEST work and stay true to yourself!

CRITERIA: The name of the game is CHILDREN’S BOOKS. This is not a fine art show. Our select judges will be looking for dynamic pieces that also fit into the realm of books for young readers. Consider:

- CRAFT—be the master of your medium
- IMPACT—give it the “WOW!” factor
- CONCEPT—fresh, unique takes on universal themes
- MARKETABILITY—suitable for the marketplace
- NARRATION—visual storytelling
- EMOTION—evoking reader response

Who can enter? Anyone! Members or non-members of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, as long as you can drop off your artwork (only SCBWI members can mail their artwork in).

What can you enter? ONLY 1 piece inspired by this year’s prompt. Art must be 11” x 17” horizontal or vertical format, mounted on black foamcore with a 2-inch border (so artwork should really be 15” x 21”). No mats, no frames, and NO originals. **Please include command strips to hang on a wall.** Label the back of your foamcore with your name and contact cell number. Label the front with a 3” x 1” sticker with your first and last name (for voting purposes) and the title of your piece (if you have one).

NO AI: For over 50 years, SCBWI has encouraged and celebrated the creativity, dedication, and lived experiences of our members. Due to the hard work and talents of all who write and illustrate for children’s books, as well as ethical concerns surrounding work produced by generative Artificial Intelligence, **SCBWI is currently not accepting entries that have been created with the use of text-prompted generative AI software or platforms.** This includes illustrations and text that have been fully or partially created by generative AI.

PROMO CARDS: If you would like to include some promo or business cards for professionals to take away with them, please include a small baggie with no more than 100 promotional cards. Leave the bag for us to reuse for your card storage at the end of the day. Cards must be no larger than 5” x 7” (horizontal or vertical).

PORTFOLIO: IF you are registered for the conference, you may also submit ONE portfolio for display for free (NO original art!). There is no contest for Portfolios. Details on what to submit will be on the website. You will still need to register for this, as well as sign a waiver.

When and where do you drop it off?

- Please pre-arrange with Jena Lasley. Please email Jena Lasley to arrange drop off and for phone number to text.
 - Upon arrival, please text Jena to let her know you're on location and she will come get it from you (as she will be running around helping with the conference).

If you are mailing your artwork in, email Jena Lasley at alaska-ic@scbwi.org for an address. You will need to provide a self-addressed and stamped envelope (SASE) or box for the return postage as well. *(ONLY SCBWI members can mail their work in and it must be postmarked by September 4th at the latest.)*

PICK UP: Artwork will be available for pick up between 4:00pm and 4:30pm on Saturday. (Or an alternate pickup must be arranged in advance.)

We do not accept responsibility for artwork, lost or damaged, during the weekend.

Artwork will be displayed all day Saturday at the conference.

Winners: Two categories: Best in Show and People's Choice. (Best in Show wins a \$50 visa gift card; and People's Choice wins a \$25 visa gift card.)

QUESTIONS: Contact Jena Lasley: alaska-ic@scbwi.org

We are looking forward to seeing your work,

Jena Lasley, Illustrator Coordinator, SCBWI AK
Matthew Lasley, Regional Advisor, SCBWI AK