Tuesday 28 July 2026

Art Competitions Open as CHArts 2026 Countdown Begins

The countdown is on for one of Circular Head's biggest annual community celebrations, with the official CHArts Festival website now live and entries opening for the 2026 art competitions.

Held throughout September, CHArts is Circular Head's signature celebration of arts, culture and heritage. The month-long festival brings together local artists, performers, community groups, businesses and visitors to celebrate the creativity, stories and unique character of our region.

While the full festival program will be unveiled on Friday 7 August, artists, photographers and writers can enter this year's competitions now through the new CHArts website.

The art competitions are open to adults and young people across Tasmania, providing an opportunity to showcase their work as part of the CHArts Festival exhibition.

Competition categories include the prestigious CHArtchibald Portraiture Prize, art, photography and writing, with more than $10,000 in prize money on offer thanks to the generous support of local businesses, community organisations and festival partners. Highlights include the $2,000 CHArtchibald Prize, the $1,000 Community Bank Smithton and Districts Photography Acquisition Prize, the $1,000 Open Art Prize and a wide range of youth awards that encourage emerging local talent.

Mayor Gerard Blizzard said CHArts had become one of the community's most anticipated annual events.

"CHArts celebrates the creativity, talent and community spirit that already exists across Circular Head. It's something we can all be proud of and something we're excited to share with visitors."

"Whether you're entering a competition, exhibiting your work, attending an event or simply coming along to enjoy the festival, CHArts is an invitation for everyone to be part of a celebration that belongs to our whole community."

Now is the time for artists to start preparing their entries. Whether you're an experienced artist or entering for the first time, we'd encourage you to get involved. CHArts has categories for all ages and abilities, and we'd love to see another outstanding display of local and Tasmanian talent this year.

Entries close at 5pm on Monday 17 August 2026, with artwork to be delivered on 27 and 28 August ahead of the exhibition opening on Friday 4 September as part of the CHArts Festival.

Full competition information, entry forms, categories and conditions are available on the website.

The 2026 festival program, featuring exhibitions, workshops, live performances, pop-up events and returning favourites such as Sounds Around Town, will be released on Friday 7 August.

For competition details and festival updates, visit the CHArts website
www.chartsfestival.com

Authorised for general media distribution by Gerard Blizzard, Mayor, Circular Head Council.

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