



14th Beauty in Biology Art Competition

The Biology Department is holding a competition open to LUC students and alumni* for artwork to be displayed in the Life Sciences Bldg. A cash prize (\$1000) will be provided for the winning submission. Although we are primarily in need of 2-dimensional art for our Art Stream Gallery, outstanding sculpture and multimedia work will be considered. We hope that this annual event will provide the department and university with an evolving legacy of creativity and intellectual development.

Guidelines:

Eligibility: Undergraduate or graduate students in any major, as well as LUC alumni*. Faculty may serve as advisors.

Media: As you wish, including but not limited to 2-dimensional images, sculpture, graphics/animation/video, light work, music, dance. Please discuss plans for large format work with the contact person (see below) prior to beginning the work.

Subject matter: Rather than simply depicting an interpretation of the beauty of a microscopic object or natural scene, the work should convey and react to an important biological concept derived from research. E.g., some nerve cells are strikingly beautiful by themselves, but a piece that reacts to (and conveys) the capacity of the neuron to undergo localized structural changes that mediate learning would be favored, at least in terms of subject matter. In that sense, this is not an art competition, but an art-science competition. As with any art competition, aesthetics, creativity, and the expression of the artist's unique perspective on/reaction to the topic are heavily weighed.

Artists are welcome to consult with Biology students and faculty to identify/refine concepts and develop a work that creatively reflects a scientific or technological concept. Please visit the Biology faculty research website at <https://www.luc.edu/biology/aboutus/facultyresearch/> to select an area that interests you, and contact the faculty member or visit the lab to meet students engaged in the research to see if there is any interest in a collaboration. Biology students who are not artists but have ideas for a submission may work with artists to develop an interpretation of their ideas. Biology students may contact professors in Fine Arts if they need help finding an artist partner.

Each submission must be accompanied by a description of less than one page, single spaced. The description should explain the scientific concept that inspired the work and also address some of the linkages between the scientific concept and the artistic expression (if none are obvious). Submissions need not be framed, but the winning work must be framed by the artist. Providing protection (plastic or cardboard, etc.) for your work is recommended.

Pre-notification: As soon as you decide to participate, please email Dr. Rochlin (see below) to let him know and provide an estimate of the dimensions of the work. Changes are allowed.

Due date: **April 1st, 2026.** Submission of the original work is strongly encouraged, but our space is limited and we cannot guarantee the safety of the piece. Therefore, artists should also provide an electronic image of their work along with the description to Prof. Bill Rochlin. A drop off time on or prior to April 1st will then be arranged.

Judges: Voting is carried out by the Biology Art committee, consisting of individuals from the Biology department. An artist from outside the department may participate as a consultant.

Public Show: With permission of the artist, artwork will be on display at the Undergraduate Research and Engagement Symposium in April, 2026. The winner of the competition will be announced at this event.

Award: Pending departmental approval, original winning pieces will become part of a semi-permanent (minimum 4 years) display in the Quinlan Life Sciences Bldg. The artist will receive an award of \$1000. *The committee reserves the right to not select an awardee from the submissions.* This would not be an indictment of the quality of the submissions; it signifies that the submissions did not suit the committee members' tastes. Work may be resubmitted one time.

Contact: Prof. Bill Rochlin in Biology by email at wrochli@luc.edu.

***Alumni** are invited to make a donation of \$10 (or more), payable to Loyola University Chicago, please contact Dr. Rochlin (see above). This money will be used to award the second and third place pieces, and help with the installation of the art. Surplus funds will be set aside to support future competitions and to support the Fine Arts and Biology Departments. Alumni who are interested in being a named donor for our art gallery, the "Beauty in Biology Art Stream" located on the first floor of the Life Science Building, should contact Alumni Relations. Judges will not know which alumni made donations or the amount of the donation.