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10
FLOAT
2024

*Designer of the Year
Series Rules and Themes*



Official 2024
Competition Rules and
Entry Form
March 8 -13, 2024
Lombard, Illinois

General Rules for Competitions:

1. All competitors must be registered as full delegates for the 2024 FLOAT Convention and be registered guests at the Westin Lombard Hotel for four (4) nights from March 7 through 13, 2024. The only exception to this rule are those 2024 FLOAT delegates who live within thirty (30) miles of the Westin Lombard Hotel.
2. All registered delegates at FLOAT are eligible to compete in any of the nine (9) official FLOAT competitions as well as the FLOATee photo submission contests. However, FLOAT producers, staff, official faculty, sponsors and vendors are ineligible from competing. Bonus class instructors and/or panelists are not considered full faculty and may therefore compete. Those deemed trade sponsors are also eligible to compete.
3. All competitors are responsible for assembling their own competition teams. While the FLOAT producers are willing to assist with locating able volunteers to help with competition entries, FLOAT's producers, staff, instructors or crew members are not permitted to compete or assist as crew in any of the sanctioned FLOAT competitions.
4. Designer of the Year competitions (Sculpture, Entrance Decor, Live Centerpiece, Foil Design and Organic Decor) are limited to no more than ten (10) entries this year due to spacial limitations at the host hotel. Pre-enrollment is required for these competitions. Deadline competitions do not require pre-enrollment.
5. Each competitor is limited to only one (1) entry in any DOTY competition category and is required to work within the specified guidelines, timelines and deadlines provided with each individual competition's rules. Unless otherwise specified, all competitors will be responsible for supplying their own equipment, tools, supplies, balloons, etc, in order to complete their entry. In the event of competition delay due to unforeseen circumstances, such as power outages, media interviews, etc, the Competition Director reserves the right to extend competition deadlines for individual entrants or all competitors as a whole.
6. Competitors who request balloons or supplies from FLOAT sponsors, including balloon providers, are subject to the same rules and expectations as other competitors who are providing their own materials. FLOAT cannot be responsible for lost, delayed or incomplete product requests intended for competition that are promised or provided by sponsors. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the competitor to insure that his or her materials are on hand and ready to go before each competition begins.



Official 2024 Competition Rules Continued

7. All entries remain the property of the competitor once the competitions are over. All entries must remain on display until their specified pick-up or tear down times. Failure to remove your entry by each competition's specified pick-up or tear down times will result in the forfeiture of such entry and can result in a disqualification and nullification of any prizes if applicable.
8. All competitors at FLOAT understand that they are doing so at their own risk to their person as well as possessions. FLOAT, its producers, instructors, crew and sponsors cannot be held responsible for any loss or theft of personal items, equipment, supplies or any other items found in the competition areas during both the competition or display portions of the event. In addition, FLOAT, its producers, instructors, crew and sponsors cannot be held responsible for any harm that may come to a competitor or crew member during the competition, display or tear down process, including but not limited to injury, illness or death. Competitors may also be asked to provide proof of business insurance before competing. Please use smart practices and be responsible for your own equipment and possessions.
9. No licensed, trademarked or copyrighted characters, themes or designs may be created in a competition entry without expressed written permission from the owner of said character, theme or design. Those wishing to create any such item must provide documented written permission on or before January 31, 2024, so that the FLOAT Convention can validate said permission.
10. Competitors are expected to represent themselves in a professional manner and celebrate good sportsmanship during each event. A competitor determined to be cheating to better their own entry or one who attempts to or successfully sabotage another competition entry in any way, shape or form will be immediately disqualified from the event in question and may face permanent disqualification from any and all future FLOAT competitions.
11. Failure to follow these and any of the event specific rules may result in disqualification. The Competition Director reserves the right to make any rulings based on issues that may arise that are not covered by the rules of a particular event. Any unforeseen issues will be addressed by the Competition Director as or if they occur.
12. In competitions where your team has a designated space marked on the floor with tape, you are not permitted to remove any spacial designations until you are instructed to do so by the Competition Director. You cannot remove said markings until sizing of your entry can be confirmed by the Competition Director. Removal of the markings before being instructed to do so will result in a minimum penalty of ten (10) points off your overall score for that competition and may result in the disqualification of your entry.

13. Understand that as the lead designer, you are responsible for the actions of your crew members during all competitions. Any violation of the rules that occurs as a result of one of your crew members will be assessed towards your entry in that given competition.

14. In conjunction with Rule #5, no entry in a design competition may be submitted in more than one category. In addition, designers may not replicate a design already submitted in one competition as their entry in another competition. However, a designer may utilize the same theme or similar elements throughout multiple entries without concern of penalty.

15. While FLOAT stresses the practice of safe and responsible balloon policies, entries in FLOAT's designer competitions are not required to follow the California laws pertaining to foil balloon use. Because the balloons at FLOAT for competitions are being used in a professional and responsible manner as well as indoors at all times, competitors are not restricted in this manner in conjunction with design competitions.

16. No device that emits a liquid or gas may be used in any competition piece due to the building's smoke detection systems. This includes but is not limited to the use of smoke machines, fog machines, bubble blowers or any CO2 based device.

17. At the end of regulation time for competitions, the designs are either finished or they are not. Entries declared not finished by the designer will be disqualified from entry and they will receive a score of zero (0). Late penalties are no longer in effect.

18. The use of signage or vinyl appliques are permitted in designer competitions. Because of the nature of their creation, signs may be pre-produced and vinyl may be pre-cut prior to competitions. However, no applique may be placed on decor elements prior to competing. Signs may only be used if they fit within the given design space and cannot be hung from above.

19. Pre-made kits of any kind are not permitted in FLOAT competitions. In other words, you may not purchase and use pre-made frames, pre-cut to-be-assembled pieces, pre-fitted or custom made items that are intended for use in a competition piece or anything of the sort. If you have any concerns over whether or not an element of your entry is valid, you should contact the Competition Director immediately.

20. In conjunction with Rule #4, those wishing to enter FLOAT's competitions that are part of the Designer of the Year Award (Entrance, Table Centerpiece, Sculpture, Foil Design and Organic Decor) must secure their spot in any given competition with a security deposit payment. Those wishing to qualify for the Designer of the Year Award must hold their spots with a deposit of \$250.00 US. Individual competitions will be held with a deposit of \$50.00 US.

These deposits will be refunded to the competitor upon completion of their finished, viable entry in each competition that a deposit has been paid in. It will be up to the Competition Director to determine what is and what is not deemed a viable entry, and that decision is final.

21. If a competition fills to capacity, then a waiting list will be taken for those wishing to enter if someone withdraws. No payment will be expected from anyone on the waiting list unless a spot opens up for them. They will then be given a fair amount of time to get their payment made, as determined by the Competition Director. If they fail to meet that schedule, then they will be placed at the back of the list and the next eligible person will be offered the spot. Those on the waiting lists cannot be guaranteed complimentary product in those events where product is being supplied.

22. In the event that a competitor chooses to withdraw from Designer of the Year eligibility, the \$250.00 US deposit paid is forfeit. Those who enter individual competitions and have paid the \$50.00 US deposit for each competition will also forfeit any deposits paid if they withdraw from a competition. In the event that a competitor cancels their registration to FLOAT 2022 for any reason, the same rules apply to their deposits as stated in Rules #21, #22 and #23.

23. Pre-recorded music, video, sound effects and motorized elements are permitted, but any element involved that comes into contact with balloons cannot be preconstructed in any way. In addition, the Competition Director reserves the right to disengage any audio or visual effect that is considered distracting or disruptive to another entry.

24. With regard to sponsored competitions, unless otherwise stated in the individual rules for each competition, entrants are required to **ONLY** use the brands or products that are sponsoring the competition. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS RULE.** In other words, if a particular manufacturer is sponsoring balloons for a given event, as a designer you **MUST** use that brand and that brand only in your entry. Affiliations and brand loyalty are not grounds for exceptions in this competition series. If you are unwilling to use a particular brand or product because you are concerned that it will affect your working relationship with a particular company, then you should not enter that corresponding competition.

25. In conjunction with Rule #25, if you have entered a competition with sponsored product and miss the deadline for complimentary supplies from the sponsor, you are still obligated by the rules to use only that manufacturer's products in your entry. Competitors at that point will need to secure said product on their own and at their own expense.

26. FLOAT and the Competition Director reserve the right to make adjustments to any and all rules at any time, including unforeseen circumstances during the competitions themselves.



Official 2024 Competition Rules Continued

27. In our Designer of the Year competitions where teams are limited to a specific number of people, it is important to note that ANYONE involved and interacting with your team must (a) be considered a team member and (b) must be a fully registered delegate for FLOAT 2024. While FLOAT does allow children 12 years old and younger to attend the convention with their parent or guardian at no cost, they are not allowed to be involved or allowed anywhere near the competitions while they are happening unless you are willing to register them as a delegate for the convention. In addition, anyone being brought in for any reason during a given competition, including but not limited to the collection of photos and video for marketing content, must be counted as one of your official team members. Otherwise, they are not allowed to be in or near the competition space until the competition is over.

28. In order to be eligible for Designer of the Year, you must be designated as either one (1) person or one (1) business. Multiple business owners cannot team up and co-design together unless they are legally part of the same business.



Competition Rules - Sculpture Sponsored by Gemar, Anagram Balloons and Balloon Glow

Friday, March 8, 2024 - 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Location - Main Ballroom I & J

Theme - None - Open to Artist Choice

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of twelve (12) hours. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval may result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. Entries are limited to 7' wide by 7' deep by 10' tall. All elements of decor must fit within the confines of said space, including any supplemental signage a designer may wish to use.
4. Teams are limited to no more than ten (10) people, including the designer. All team members must be registered with the Competition Director before the start of competition.
5. Sculptures must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. With that in mind, at least 90% of the entry must be made from balloons.
6. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead or wall-based rigging is permitted. All mechanical elements involved with framing must be found within the footprint of the piece.
7. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated time allotted: Friday, March 8, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Teams will be allowed to set up their work station from 7:15 AM until 7:45 AM prior to the start of the competition. All entries must be completed by 8:00 PM. There is an added thirty minute period for clean up so all entries must be cleaned up and free and clear by 8:30 PM that evening.
8. Lighting, video and audio effects may be used in a sculpture entry. However, any effects used as part of an entry cannot distract or detract from other entries. The Competition Director will determine whether or not an effect distracts or detracts from another entry.
9. Entries must remain on display until 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Competitors are responsible for the removal of their entries between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM that same day.



Sculpture Design (Continued)

Sponsored by Gemar, Anagram Balloons
and Balloon Glow

will be required to have their pieces removed from the Ballroom by no later than 2:00 PM on March 13, 2024, as this space will be needed for the Designer Awards Gala. Entries not removed by 2:00 PM on March 13, 2024, will become property of FLOAT, and as such the designer will lose all rights to ownership of any elements of the entry, and FLOAT will decide what becomes of all elements involved.

10. When a competitor has determined they have completed their entry, they must announce to the Competition Director that they have completed work on the piece. Once that has been officially confirmed, the entry is considered finished and ready for submission. Once a competitor announces they are finished, that is where the work ends on the design. Once a designer has announced that their piece is completed, they cannot undo the action. In other words, they do not have the ability to change their mind and ask to continue work on the piece.

11. There are no allowances, penalties and the like permitted for overtime in this category. Designs not completed at the end of the twelve hours will be disqualified at that point and the entry will receive an official score of zero (0).

12. Once the official deadline has been reached, competitors may no longer handle their entries in any way that is not approved by the Competition Director. Any contact made to an entry by a competitor after the official deadline has passed not approved by the Competition Director will be considered in violation of the timeline and will be declared over time and therefore disqualified.

13. Competitors will be permitted to spread out and work throughout the event space. However, it should be understood that all competitors must share the space equally and no one team should dominate or take on space at the expense of another competitor. Penalties of five (5) points may be assessed by the competition director for each infraction of this rule during the competition.

14. Because there is no theme to this competition, the concept of a sculpture is open to the interpretation of the designer. There is no established definition of what qualifies as a sculpture, but designers should be aware that if they choose to go a non-traditional route, their vision in their design needs to be conveyed to the judges without verbal explanation. Competitors are not allowed to be present during the judging process nor will be given the opportunity to address the judges about their logic, vision or message.

15. This competition is being directly sponsored by Gemar (latex balloons) and Anagram (foil



Sculpture Design (Continued)

Sponsored by Gemar, Anagram Balloons
and Balloon Glow

balloons). As such, all entries are REQUIRED to use only those brands of balloons to create their entries. No exceptions of any kind will be allowed.

16. Gemar has agreed to provide up to ten (10) competitors with up to \$500.00 US worth of latex inventory to create their entry. Anagram Balloons has agreed to provide up to ten (10) competitors with up to \$150.00 US worth of foil balloons for their entry. Both companies reserve the right to request preliminary sketches and plans of your piece in order to justify your requests for product.

17. All product requests with said manufacturers are due no later than December 20, 2023. Product requests cannot be guaranteed after that date. All requests are subject to product availability, and the sponsor reserves the right to deny a product request for any reason.

18. By entering in this competition, you are allowing both Gemar and Anagram Balloons the right to use photos of your entry in their marketing platforms as part of their sponsorship of this event.

19. As the sponsor of this competition, all competitors are required to use Balloon Glow if they wish to shine their competition pieces. One (1) can or bottle of Balloon Glow will be provided to each competitor for this use. If you need more, you are required to only use Balloon Glow shine protectant in your entry.

20. This competition will feature both a judging panel and is part of the Delegates' Choice awards. Please note that the results of Delegates' Choice have no bearing on the Judging Panel's decisions and are not considered as part of the Designer of the Year competition.

21. Prizes are as follows:

- First Place - \$500.00 and plaque
- Second Place - \$250.00 and plaque
- Third Place - \$150.00 and plaque
- Delegates' Choice - plaque



Competition Rules - Entrance Decor

Sponsored by Fanfaire.IO and MegaShine

Saturday, March 9, 2024 - 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location - Grand Ballroom Atrium

Theme - "The Official Launch of Fanfaire.IO"

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of four (4) hours. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval will result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. In this competition, there are two important sizing standards. The first is what is considered the footprint of the piece. The footprint of an entry may not exceed an overall size of 13' wide by 3' deep. However, once the piece reaches a height of 5', the design may extend beyond the 13' by 3' size restriction. There is no restriction on the overall height of the entry. Electrical cords, if necessary, extending beyond the official competition space are permitted and do not penalize the entry, but must be safely secured and not distracting to either the entry in use or other entries around it.
4. Teams may consist of no more than four (4) balloon crew members, including the designer(s). It should be noted that this is a restriction of four crew members total, not four at any one given time. In other words, you may not sub out crew members during the competition. Lead designers must submit a team roster prior to the start of the competition.
5. Entries must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Entries should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. With that in mind, at least 90% of the entry must be made from balloons.
6. Helium and Hi-FLOAT will be provided for all competitors with the understanding that it is to be used moderately and shared between all competitors. If a design requires a large amount of either element, then the competitor is required to provide their own helium, Hi-FLOAT and appropriate inflation equipment. Please note that helium tanks and Hi-FLOAT dispensers will be in limited quantities, so competitors are expected to share access to resources in a professional manner. If the security panel determines that a competitor is not properly sharing common equipment and supplies, the competitor will receive a verbal warning, followed by a deduction of five (5) points from their overall score for every additional infraction thereafter.

7. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead or wall based rigging is permitted. Any framing involved in the design must fit within the established footprint as stated in Rule #3 of this section.

8. The concept of “entrance decor” is open to the interpretation of the designer and is not limited to an archway. Entrance decor is simply that; balloon decor that is used to decorate an entrance to a space. It may consist of any type of balloon design or element that the artist deems pertinent to their design. However, it is important to note that the artist is expected to create a design that is appropriate for the space at hand. Special allowances will not be given to designs that do not take dimensional elements into account.

9. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Teams will be permitted a staging and set up period from 7:15 AM until 7:45 AM where they may set up their work stations and organize product. No construction of any kind may take place during this period. All entries should be completed by 12:00 PM. In addition, all teams must have their work space cleaned and cleared from debris and equipment by 12:30 PM that same day.

10. Only designated crew members are allowed to be involved in the set up and clean up process of the competition. No additional people are permitted to assist with this portion.

11. Entries must remain on display until 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Competitors will be required to have their pieces removed from the Atrium by no later than 2:00 PM on March 13, 2024, as this space will be needed for the Designer Awards Gala. Entries not removed by 2:00 PM on March 13, 2024, will become property of FLOAT, and as such the designer will lose all rights to ownership of any elements of the entry, and FLOAT will decide what becomes of all elements involved.

12. All entries must create a design that is appropriate to the theme of a product or brand launch, in this case our sponsor Fanfaire.IO. Any brand of latex or foil balloon may be used in this competition, but with all branding, it's essential to use their company colors in your design.





Entrance Decor (Continued)

Sponsored by Fanfaire.IO and MegaShine

13. By entering in this competition, you are allowing Fanfaire.IO the right to use photos of your entry in their marketing platforms as part of their sponsorship of this event.
14. As the sponsor of this competition, all competitors are required to use MegaShine if they wish to shine their competition pieces. One (1) can or bottle of MegaShine will be provided to each competitor for this use. If you need more, you are required to only use MegaShine protectant in your entry.
15. This competition will feature both a judging panel and is part of the Delegates' Choice awards. Please note that the results of Delegates' Choice have no bearing on the Judging Panel's decisions and are not considered as part of the Designer of the Year competition.
16. Prizes are as follows:
- First Place - \$300.00 and plaque
 - Second Place - \$200.00 and plaque
 - Third Place - \$100.00 and plaque
 - Delegates' Choice - plaque



Competition Rules - Live Centerpiece

Sponsored by Mayflower Distribution and Hi-SHINE

Saturday, March 9, 2022 - 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Location - Main Ballroom I & J

Theme - "Cavalcade of New Colors"

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of ninety (90) minutes. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval may result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. With regard to sizing in this competition, there are two primary concerns. First, the base of the centerpiece may not exceed an overall size of a 22" CIRCLE for any element of the design up to and including 36" from the table surface. Once the design passes the 36" point from the surface of the table, the design may then expand beyond the 22" restriction. There is no restriction on overall height for this contest, but the ceiling height is 18'. Failure to conform to size restrictions may result in a disqualification.
4. Teams may consist of no more than one (1) primary designer and one (1) assistant. It should be noted that this is a restriction of two crew members total, not two at any one given time. In other words, you may not sub out crew members during the competition. Lead designers must officially name their assistant prior to the start of the competition.
5. Sculptures must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. With that in mind, at least 75% of the entry must be made from balloons.
6. Helium and Hi-FLOAT will be provided for all competitors with the understanding that it is to be used moderately and shared between all competitors. If a design requires a large amount of either element, then the competitor is required to provide their own helium, Hi-FLOAT and appropriate inflation equipment. Please note that helium tanks and Hi-FLOAT dispensers will be in limited quantities, so competitors are expected to share access to resources in a professional manner. If the security panel determines that a competitor is not properly sharing common equipment and supplies, the competitor will receive a verbal warning, followed by a deduction of five (5) points from their overall score for every additional infraction thereafter.



Live Centerpiece (Continued)

Sponsored by Mayflower Distribution and Hi-SHINE

7. Once the competition has begun, only the individual competitor and one (1) assistant is permitted to work on their design. No persons other than the competitor and assistant are allowed to be involved in any way, shape or form with the completion of the entry once the competition has begun. Any competitor who receives assistance from anyone not officially sanctioned by the FLOAT Competition Director during the competition will result in the immediate disqualification of their design. This includes non-participants locating or delivering items to competitors during the active competition.
8. The concept of “table centerpiece”, while open to the interpretation of the designer, is different from that of a buffet style centerpiece. As such, it should absolutely adhere to the “14 Inch Rule” in conjunction to centerpiece design.
9. All entries must create a design whose primary color is one featured in a new latex balloon that was released between March 1, 2023, and the date of competition. While other previously released colors may be used in a competition entry, the clear focal color **MUST** be one that was newly released within the last year of the competition. Competitors may be asked to provide proof of their color choice by the Competition Director. The color rule of this competition does not apply to foil balloons.
10. Competitors are allowed to use any brand of balloon they like for this competition, as long as said balloons fit within the parameters of the requirements for color association.
11. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Teams will be permitted a staging and set up period from 2:15 PM until 2:45 PM where they may set up their work stations and organize product. No construction of any kind may take place during this period. In addition, all teams must have their work space cleaned and cleared from debris and equipment by 5:00 PM that same day. Only the two (2) designated crew members are allowed to be involved in the clean up process of the competition. No additional people are permitted to assist with this portion. Any designer not following this timeline will be disqualified from competition in this category.
12. When a competitor has determined they have completed their entry, they must announce to the Competition Director that they have completed work on the piece. Once that has been officially confirmed, the entry is considered finished and ready for submission. The competitor will then be instructed by the Competition Director where to place their entry. At that time, the competitor will be responsible for relocating the piece as directed. While minor tweaking will be permitted due to the movement of the piece, no additional work may be completed on a design at that point. Once a competitor announces they are finished, that is where the work ends on the design.



Live Centerpiece (Continued)

Sponsored by Mayflower Distribution and Hi-SHINE

13. Once a designer has announced that their piece is completed, they cannot undo the action. In other words, they do not have the ability to change their mind and ask to continue work on the piece.

14. There are no allowances, penalties and the like permitted for overtime in this category. Designs not completed at the end of ninety (90) minutes will be disqualified at that point and the entry will receive an official score of zero (0).

15. Once the official deadline has been reached, competitors may no longer handle their entries in any way that is not approved by the Competition Director. Any contact made to an entry by a competitor after the official ninety (90) minute deadline has passed not approved by the Competition Director will be considered in violation of the timeline and will be declared over time and therefore eliminated.

16. Entries must remain on display until 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Competitors will be required to have their pieces removed from the Ballroom by no later than 2:00 PM on March 13, 2024, as this space will be needed for the Designer Awards Gala. Entries not removed by 2:00 PM on March 13, 2024, will become property of FLOAT, and as such the designer will lose all rights to ownership of any elements of the entry, and FLOAT will decide what becomes of all elements involved.

17. Anything used in the centerpiece design that requires electricity must be battery powered. No wires or extension cords may extend outside of the designated space of the entry. Competitors will be allowed to change out batteries or replace single-use products should the need arise after the competition has ended for the sake of judging; however, any and all contact with the entry for such purposes must be coordinated with the Competition Director prior to such contact.

18. Mayflower Distribution has agreed to provide up to ten (10) competitors with up to \$75.00 US worth of merchandise they carry for exclusive use in this competition. Mayflower reserves the right to request preliminary sketches and plans of your piece in order to justify your requests for product.

19. All product requests with Mayflower are due no later than December 20, 2023. Product requests cannot be guaranteed after that date. All requests are subject to product availability, and the sponsor reserves the right to deny a product request for any reason.

20. By entering in this competition, you are allowing Mayflower Distribution the right to use photos of your entry in their marketing platforms as part of their sponsorship of this event.



Live Centerpiece (Continued)

Sponsored by Mayflower Distribution and Hi-SHINE

21. If a competitor wishes to shine their entry piece, they are required to use Hi-SHINE, the competition's sponsor. Hi-SHINE will be provided to all competitors, but no other brands may be used in this competition.

22. This competition will feature both a judging panel and is part of the Delegates' Choice awards. Please note that the results of Delegates' Choice have no bearing on the Judging Panel's decisions and are not considered as part of the Designer of the Year competition.

23. Prizes are as follows:
 - First Place - \$200.00 and plaque
 - Second Place - \$100.00 and plaque
 - Third Place - \$50.00 and plaque
 - Delegates' Choice - plaque



Competition Rules - Foil Design

Sponsored by Burst Party Co.

Sunday, March 10, 2024 - 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Location - Junior Ballroom Atrium

Theme - None - Open to Artist's Choice

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of four (4) hours. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval may result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. Entries are limited to a size of 5' wide by 5' deep, and spaces will be marked as such.
4. Teams are limited in this competition to one (1) designer and two (2) crew members. Lead designers will be required to submit an official team roster of all crew members. In addition, this competition involves a total of the same three (3) crew members throughout the duration. Teams may not swap out crew members once the competition has begun.
5. Designs must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. Given the nature of this competition, at least 75% of the design must consist of foil balloons in one form or another. Latex balloons can be used in this competition, but should only be used as support product for the primary design, not be the primary element accented by foil balloons.
6. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead or wall-based rigging is permitted.
7. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Sunday, March 10, 2024, from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Teams will be allowed to set up their work station from 6:15 AM until 6:45 AM prior to the start of the competition. In addition, a clean up period of 30 minutes will be allotted until 11:30 AM. However, no construction of any design can take place during that period.
8. Due to the sometimes unpredictable nature of room temperatures, please note that the judging panel will be alerted to these issues and as such, small "softening" issues will not be held against you during the judging period should this arise.

9. The concept of “foil design” is entirely open to the artist’s interpretation. It can be any decor element constructed from foils as long as it fits within the designated space.

10. Helium will be provided for all competitors with the understanding that it is to be used moderately and shared between all competitors. If a design requires a large amount of either element, then the competitor is required to provide their own helium and appropriate inflation equipment. Please note that helium tanks will be in limited quantities, so competitors are expected to share access to resources in a professional manner. If the security panel determines that a competitor is not properly sharing common equipment and supplies, the competitor will receive a verbal warning, followed by a deduction of five (5) points from their overall score for every additional infraction thereafter.

11. Entries must remain on display until Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 8:00 AM. Competitors will then be required to remove their pieces. Disregarded entries will be subject to removal by FLOAT staff and no responsibility will be claimed for lost or missing items.

12. The only design requirement for this competition is that you must use at least one (1) of the foil balloons produced by Burst Party Co. in your entry. The balloon(s) you choose will be provided to you by Burst Party Co., which must be requested by no later than December 20, 2023. The balloon(s) you use from Burst Party Co. must be used for their intended purpose and cannot be used in another other form than as an inflated balloon. All requests are subject to product availability, and the sponsor reserves the right to deny a product request for any reason. Aside from the Burst Party Co. requirement, foils from any manufacturer are permitted for use in this competition.

Designs: Finished Products



22" JEAN
JACKET



18" HALLOWEEN
PRINT



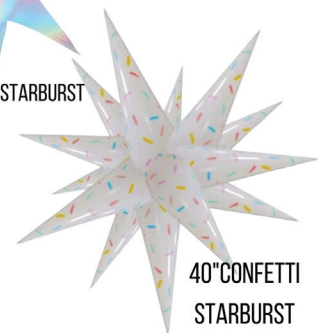
40" MUSHROOM
SHAPE

In production

ETA USA ARRIVAL LATE SEPTEMBER:



40" IRIDESCENT
STARBURST



40" CONFETTI
STARBURST



Foil Design Continued

Sponsored by Burst Party Co.

13. By entering in this competition, you are allowing Burst Party Co. the right to use photos of your entry in their marketing platforms as part of their sponsorship of this event.

14. This competition will feature both a judging panel and is part of the Delegates' Choice awards. Please note that the results of Delegates' Choice have no bearing on the Judging Panel's decisions and are not considered as part of the Designer of the Year competition.

15. Prizes are as follows:

First Place - \$300.00 and plaque

Second Place - \$200.00 and plaque

Third Place - \$100.00 and plaque

Delegates' Choice - plaque



Competition Rules - Organic Decor

Sponsored by Betallic, Inc and MegaShine

Sunday, March 10, 2024 - 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Location - Junion Ballroom Atrium

Theme - "Strike a Pose!"

1. All competitors must adhere to all rules listed under general competitions.
2. This is a timed competition where entrants are expected to create their pieces in front of a security panel within the time frame of four (4) hours. Nothing may be preconstructed, painted, glued, cut or otherwise pre-assembled without the prior approval of the Competition Director. Failure to secure such approval may result in the immediate disqualification of your entry.
3. Entries are limited to a size of 12' wide by 6' deep and spaces will be marked as such. Height is limited to the ceiling of the space (roughly 14')
4. Teams are limited in this competition to one (1) designer and three (3) crew members. Lead designers will be required to submit an official team roster of all crew members. In addition, this competition involves a total of the same four (4) crew members throughout the duration. Teams may not swap out crew members once the competition has begun.
5. Designs must be made from balloons and traditional industry related materials. Any use of non-traditional building materials not generally used in balloon sculpture construction must be pre-approved by the Competition Director prior to the event. Sculptures should reflect the world of balloon decorating techniques but are not limited to such. Given the nature of this competition, at least 90% of the design must consist of balloons in one form or another.
6. All competition pieces must be free standing. No overhead or wall-based rigging is permitted. Any framework must fit within the confines of the designated competition space.
7. All competitors are permitted to work only within the designated times allotted: Sunday, March 10, 2024, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Teams will be allowed to set up their work station from 1:15 PM until 1:45 PM prior to the start of the competition. In addition, a clean up period of 30 minutes will be allotted until 6:30 PM. However, no construction of any design can take place during that period.
8. Entries must remain on display until Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 8:00 AM. Competitors will then be required to remove their pieces. Disregarded entries will be subject to removal by FLOAT staff and no responsibility will be claimed for lost or missing items.
9. While there is no official definition of exactly what "organic decor" is, for the purposes of

this competition, balloon elements involved should create the appearance of randomness with regard to placement and sizing as opposed to techniques used in what is considered classic or standard balloon decor styles. Randomness in this case, however, does not apply to color placement of balloons, in the case of using organic style to create an ombre effect within your piece.

10. Any framing of any kind used for this competition must be fully created on location during the competition. This includes any foam-based letter templates or metal frames that balloons may be placed inside. Foam-based letter templates are not allowed to be pre-traced, cut or prepared in any way. Metal frames cannot be pre-prepared in any way prior to competition. Anything else that a designer may wish to place balloons inside of or use in their design that is not considered standard balloon decor must be pre-approved by the competition director prior to the event. Pre-cut and piece together foam number or letter kits are considered a violation of the content rules as stated in Rule #20 of the General Rules section.

11. Neither FLOAT nor the host hotel can assume liability for the care or containment of live floral elements prior to the competition. The use of live floral elements in this and any competition is not advised and designers do so at their own risk.

12. In order to adhere to the theme “Strike a Pose!” competitors should plan to create a design that is intended to be used as a photo op / backdrop. The theme of the photo op is entirely up to the designer, so you are not held to any specific subject matter or color scheme. In addition, the design may include any props or accent pieces they wish to include, with the understanding that they do not violate any of the other rules of the competitions and must be provided by the designer.

13. Betallic, Inc has agreed to provide up to ten (10) competitors with up to \$200.00 US worth of latex inventory to create their entry. Betallic reserves the right to request preliminary sketches and plans of your piece in order to justify your requests for product.

14. All product requests from Betallic are due no later than December 20, 2023. Product requests cannot be guaranteed after that date. All requests are subject to product availability, and the sponsor reserves the right to deny a product request for any reason.

15. By entering in this competition, you are allowing Betallic, Inc and MegaShine the right to use photos of your entry in their marketing platforms as part of their sponsorship of this event.

16. As a sponsor of this competition, all competitors are required to use MegaShine if they wish



Organic Decor Continued

Sponsored by Betallic, Inc and MegaShine

to treat their entry. MegaShine will be provided to any competitor who wishes to use it, but no other brands may be used in this competition.

17. This competition will feature both a judging panel and is part of the Delegates' Choice awards. Please note that the results of Delegates' Choice have no bearing on the Judging Panel's decisions and are not considered as part of the Designer of the Year competition.

18. Prizes are as follows:

- First Place - \$500.00 and plaque
- Second Place - \$250.00 and plaque
- Third Place - \$150.00 and plaque
- Delegates' Choice - plaque

It is important for you as a competitor to know how you are being evaluated when preparing for a competition. Please review the following information to better prepare yourself for competing at the 2024 FLOAT Convention.

Entries in each of the design competitions will be scored based on the following criteria:

A. Structural Elements: Does your design appear to be solidly constructed? Are your mechanics showing, or have you hidden them all? If they are showing, are they done so in a manner that is conducive to the overall design?

B. Originality and Creativity: Is your entry significant in its own right, or does it draw too much from existing designs already common to the market? If it does borrow from established sculpture designs, what have you done to make it new and refreshing? Have you incorporated a new technique in the design, or possibly found a new way to use an older technique?

C. Visual Elements: Does your entry abide by the various elements of design? Is it balanced? Is your use of color appropriate for the message and tone you wish to send to the viewer? Is your eye lead throughout the piece, or are you focused on a central point? In either case, does that benefit or hinder the design?

D. Range of Skill: Does the design incorporate complex techniques or is it based on simpler applications? Does the piece show a range of talent or are there multiple applications involved?

E. Overall Impact: When all is said and done, how does the entry make you feel? Is there an emotional connection made between the viewer and the piece? If so, is that intended? Do you feel that the design tells a story or sends a message? Is this something you're going to want to remember or feel encouraged to duplicate later?

Scoring: Each entry in each competition will be scored by five (5) different judges. Judges will award between 0 and 10 points for each of the five categories listed above, giving a final score between 0 and 50 points by each judge for each entry. This means initially each entry can score as much as 250 total points.

However, to prevent the possibilities of favoritism, the highest and lowest scores are thrown out, leaving the three middle scores and the highest possibility of 150 points in a competition.



Judging Criteria Continued

Disqualifications: The Competition Director may disqualify a competition piece for the following reasons:

- A. Violating any of FLOAT's General Rules for competing
- B. Violating size or time restrictions
- C. Removal of marking tape for competition spaces without approval
- D. Violating maximum staffing rules for a competition where applicable
- E. Cheating, being dishonest or anything deemed unsportsmanlike or unprofessional in a competition atmosphere

Judges: Judges are selected along the following criteria:

- A. Must be deemed an authority in the particular field they are judging by the Competition Director
- B. Cannot be a salaried full-time employee for a balloon manufacturer.
- C. Be familiar with the process of competing in a timed design competition, been a former competitor or award winner.

Judges only score based on the five criteria listed at the top of the sheet. They are not to share scores or opinions with each other while they are judging, and they are not allowed to issue deductions deemed the responsibility of the Competition Director.

In the event that a judge is discovered to have violated any of these rules, his or her scores will be removed and a new judge will be chosen to replace them.

Awards: In all of FLOAT's designer competitions, prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third Places. These awards will be presented based upon the judging panel's final scores. An additional prize of "Delegates' Choice" will be presented to the design entry in each category that wins the popular vote amongst the FLOAT delegates in attendance.



FLOAT's Designer of the Year

If a designer enters at least three (3) of FLOAT's five live designer competitions, that person is then eligible for the title of 2024 FLOAT Designer of the Year.

Designer of the Year will be determined through the following process:

- A. Competitor is deemed eligible by completing one (1) entry in at least three (3) of the following competitions: Entrance Decor, Live Table Centerpiece, Sculpture, Foil Design and Organic Decor.
- B. Should a competitor enter four (4) or five (5) of the eligible competitions, then their highest three (3) event scores will be used to determine their official final score.
- C. The total sum of all points from each of the three designated event scores will be tallied to give each artist a final score.
- D. The competitor with the highest final score of those eligible will be declared Designer of the Year.
- E. No competitor shall receive special consideration or "bonus points" for competing in more than three (3) categories. The benefit to competing in more than three categories is that you have more options to achieve higher scores than another competitor who chooses not to enter more than three categories.
- F. In the event of a tie between two or more artists in total points for Designer of the Year, the tie will be broken by reviewing the following steps:
 1. Head to head points - If the artists in question were involved in the same design competition(s), then their points for that (or those) competition(s) will be tallied and the winner declared by whoever has the highest points strictly from those competitions.
 2. Penalty points - If a tie remains, then any penalty points assessed to the artists in question will be tallied and the artist with the fewest penalties against them will be declared the winner.
 3. Delegates' Choice - If a tie still remains, then the artists' overall "Delegates' Choice" points will be tallied and the winner declared based on those figures.
 4. Executive Decision - In the extremely remote possibility that a tie still remains after these other steps have been taken, then the Competition Director will choose the winner.