

COMPETITION GUIDE

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1. Competition Rules

Hello ARTIST,

I already know – because I just know – that you're eager to register and not so eager to read all of this. But if you don't read it, you're going to do things wrong... and that complicates and doubles the workload for all of us. So think of this reading as the beginning of your adventure at Aerial Art and start it as it deserves: at full throttle!

How does our selection process work?

The selection process for AERIAL ART is done through a presentation video for all categories, without exception.

How do I know which category to enter?

Let us explain. There are two criteria:

AGE (being within the lower and upper age limits on the day of the competition): junior (10 to 16 years old), absolute (17 to 45 years old), and master (46 years and older). You know your age, so this part is easy.

EXPERIENCE Amateur, Expert, Pro, and Artist.

We understand this is a bit harder because it's subjective. That is, a person may be very advanced where they train but have a lower level elsewhere. In any case, look at the category definitions to try to place yourself.

There is a new category:

CERTAMEN You can only enter it if you are over 18 years old. It is aimed at artists who want to receive feedback from the judges on a work in progress, a number for an audition... You can read more about it in the category definitions.

Once all pre-selection videos have been reviewed, we will announce the finalists for each category, who will go directly to the in-person final. The equipment test will generally take place the day before the final begins. Keep this in mind, as it can only be done on that day and will run from morning to afternoon. Each category will have a defined time slot. If you cannot be there during that time slot, that's completely fine, but YOU CANNOT DO THE EQUIPMENT TEST.

Can I cancel my registration?

Well, you can do whatever you want because you're free. But there will always be a deadline to withdraw if you want a refund of the registration fees. This deadline will be announced for each edition. Once that date has passed, no refund is possible (except with a medical report).

We can't play around with last-minute situations, because we take very seriously ensuring that everyone has the maximum amount of detail possible, and that requires a great deal of organization.

In general this is clear, but just in case: a refund of the participation fees implies the loss of all rights as a competitor (access to the venue, ticket transfers from another competitor, participation diploma, sponsor gifts, organization ID and gift, etc.).

The refund will be 60% of the registration fee (even for medical reasons).

Why?

Because the judges' work during the pre-selection is already done, ladies. They watched your video and evaluated it. We have to respect that time and effort.

What should the pre-selection video be like?

Short and cool. Maximum duration: 2 minutes.

Does it have to include music?

No, it doesn't, but it is highly recommended.

Do you have to dress up in sparkly costumes?

No, it's not necessary. It can be a video in training clothes.

What do we want to see?

Your technical level and your artistic side (how you move on the apparatus, how you listen to the music, how you transition from one place to another...)

If you are an ARTIST, we need to see an artistic proposal. It's a two-minute video – it doesn't have to be finished at all, but we need to see that you will be exploring and researching in the coming months.

The pre-selection video must not be the same as your final performance video. Among other things, because in the final you have more time.

The video CANNOT BE EDITED.

What apparatus can I compete on?

At the moment, we include the following:

Silks · Hoop · Trapeze (single point) · Straps · Hammock · Aerial pole · Hair hang

We have all of these apparatus except the hammock and the rope, and they are of course available for you to use at Aerial Art.

The silks are made of silk fabric and are 7.5m long. We will let you know the available colors.

The hoops are single-point and unpadded (available sizes: 90 and 95 cm). Available colors: white and black.

The straps are 2.5m. Available colors: purple, burgundy, and aquamarine.

What is the stage like?

Each edition will specify the stage characteristics with enough lead time for you to prepare your act. The rigging point used will be a chain hoist (4:1).

If you need height changes during your act, you are **REQUIRED** to bring your own rigger, regardless of whether the competition's rigger supervises all maneuvers.

If you want to use your own apparatus, that is absolutely fine. You simply need to bring it on the equipment test day and the organization will label it properly and store it until your performance.

Chalk and rosin will be available. Please do not use rosin on our hoops.

There will be a crash mat for all performances. It will be 25 cm thick.

What do I need to know to prepare my performance?

A. Duration:

Amateur: maximum 3 minutes 30 seconds

Expert: maximum 4 minutes 30 seconds

Pro: maximum 5 minutes

Artist / Certamen: maximum 6 minutes

Duo: maximum 4 minutes 30 seconds

We remind you that this is an artistic competition. It is not necessary or required to spend the entire time on the apparatus. You can dance, sing, interact with the audience, walk around the stage... basically whatever you like and feel is necessary to give your act a little soul. It shouldn't just be a sequence of tricks.

B. Music:

The music can be edited. It can be someone speaking, a sound, silence... It can be whatever you want. Music is part of how you build your act and draw the audience into your world, so use it intentionally.

No two artists can use the same song in the same category. If that happens, the artist who submitted their music first keeps the song, so the other participant will have to change their choice.

C. Topless:

Honestly, the fact that toplessness in women is still a topic of debate at artistic events – even competitive ones – leaves me speechless. There is already enough censorship in life and on social media without bringing it onto the stage, which should be a place of freedom.

That said, we see no difference between toplessness in men and in women. However, women should be aware that if you perform topless, we will not be able to livestream your performance or share it afterward, given the censorship of female toplessness on all social media platforms.

D. Materials and objects that are not allowed:

Using things like fire, glass, etc. – better not. For reasons I'll assume are obvious and won't explain.

If you are going to spread any product on the stage or throw confetti or anything like that, you must indicate it on the technical form so we can alert the floor crew and get everything cleaned up for the next act.

E. Image Rights:

We understand that by coming to this event, you agree to be photographed, filmed, and interviewed during it. We also understand that you authorize us to publish those images/videos on our social media.

If that is not the case, you are required to inform the organization – and it will not be possible to participate in the event, as it is streamed live.

Can we disqualify you?

As unpleasant as it is, yes. We can.

Why?

For any intolerant behavior toward fellow competitors, judges, or the audience, whether during your performance or in the general context of the competition.

You may also be disqualified if you exceed the technical level permitted in your category. All of these details are outlined in the technical regulations so you can take them into account when preparing your act.

You may also be disqualified if:

You do not send your music on time, i.e., you do not meet the music submission deadlines.

You indicated that you need rigging but do not show up with your rigger on the day of the final.

What are the judging criteria?

The judging criteria vary by category and are explained and broken down further on in this document.

How do I register? When do you announce the finalists?

To register, you simply need to fill out the form. We will ask for the link to your pre-selection video there.

The registration opening date will be announced with enough time and visibility so you don't miss it and have time to prepare your video.

The list of finalists for each category will be published through AerialArt's social media and sent by email to all finalists.

Participation Fees

Once you have been selected for the in-person final, the fees to be paid will correspond to each edition.

All artists must pay the competition fee to secure their spot within the deadlines indicated in the selection email. If an artist does not respond, we will offer their spot to the next artist in the category.

Payment of this fee includes: participation in the event, accreditation with a complimentary lanyard, participation diploma, sponsor gifts, and access to watch the entire event as an audience member.

2.Pre-selection

As explained in the competition rules, to register for any edition of Aerial Art, you must fill out a pre-selection form.

In that form we will ask for basic information and request that you upload a video so we can assess your technical level and make sure you have chosen the correct category.

The pre-selection form must be submitted within the stated deadlines – otherwise it will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The video, as explained in point 1 (competition rules), must meet the following requirements:

- Be under two minutes long
- Not be edited
- Be well lit and in focus (so we can see you)
- Be uploaded to a platform

It is very important that once you upload the video to your chosen platform, you check that the link works correctly. You can send it to several people to make sure they can open and view it properly.

If your video does not meet any of these conditions, we will not be able to consider your application.

Once pre-selection is complete, we will announce the finalists on Instagram and send an email to everyone with the lists of selected artists by category.

3.Categories

Categories are divided according to the following criteria:

AGE

Junior: 10 to 16 years old

Absolute: 17 to 45 years old

Master: 46 years and older

Certamen: 18 years and older

EXPERIENCE

Amateur · Expert · Pro · Artist · Certamen

Everyone's experience is always tied to their individual learning process. That's why it's very difficult to set general rules to determine experience level. We'll provide some guidelines below, but they don't always match reality (for example: someone might have been doing silks for 10 years and still be amateur if those years were discontinuous and not accompanied by strength and flexibility training, etc.)

SEX

We do not divide by sex. Since this is primarily an artistic competition, we don't believe there is any reason to have separate categories for men and women, as it is not a sport competition where strength, flexibility, and balance figures are scored.

We don't believe art is divided by sex, nor is creativity, fluidity of movement, the emotion the artist conveys on stage, or their stage presence. These are factors that relate to the person, beyond their sex.

Junior (10 to 16 years old)

AMATEUR

Up to 2 years of aerial training. If they can invert with straight arms, they must enter EXPERT. If they perform dynamic moves with regrips, they must enter PRO. If in previous editions of AERIAL ART they won the AERIAL ART award, the best artistic proposal award, or the best technical proposal award, they must enter EXPERT.

EXPERT

More than 2 years of aerial training. They can invert with straight arms and perform simple sequences with fluidity. If they perform dynamic moves with regrips, they must enter PRO. If in previous editions of AERIAL ART they won the AERIAL ART award, the best artistic proposal award, or the best technical proposal award, they must enter PRO.

PRO

Their technique in the pre-selection will be closely assessed. Greater body control is expected (knees, feet, straight arms) and fluidity in transitions and tricks. If in previous editions of AERIAL ART they won the AERIAL ART award, the best artistic proposal award, or the best technical proposal award, they must enter ARTIST.

ARTIST

We will assess their technique in the pre-selection video, evaluating line clarity, fluidity in transitions, and correct execution of advanced tricks (though this is not always the most important factor). To be in ARTIST, we need to see that they know their apparatus and can perform a piece without worrying about technique, but about what they transmit to the audience.

DUO

Both artists must work on the same apparatus (not on two separate ones in a synchronized manner).

Absolute (17 to 45 years old)

AMATEUR

You are amateur if you started doing aerials recently. How recent is recent? It depends on how much you train, but I'd say one or two years. Can you have been training for 5 years and still be amateur? 100%. If you train intermittently, you can be amateur your whole life. Think of AMATEUR and EXPERT as the low and high

levels of the amateur range – people who don't do this professionally. If you invert with slight difficulty, your feet slip occasionally, you perform sequences in foot lock and hip key, and you do drops with a safety line, this is probably your category. If in previous editions of AERIAL ART you won the AERIAL ART award, the best artistic proposal award, or the best technical proposal award, you must enter EXPERT.

EXPERT

This is roughly the 'high level' of people who don't do this professionally. You invert with ease, even with straight arms, you have good hip key technique, you can do simple drops without a safety line, simple regrips, flares... Can you enter this category if you are an aerial instructor? No. If in previous editions of AERIAL ART you won the AERIAL ART award, the best artistic proposal award, or the best technical proposal award, you must enter PRO.

PRO

If you work in aerials professionally, this is the minimum category you can enter. You don't need to perform big tricks, but you do need to demonstrate a fluidity and quality of movement very different from the AMATEUR and EXPERT categories. If in previous editions of AERIAL ART you won the AERIAL ART award, the best artistic proposal award, or the best technical proposal award, you must enter ARTIST.

ARTIST

Aerial students from national and international circus schools. Aerial instructors (teaching advanced/circus preparatory students). Circus artists... We need to see that you have an artistic proposal that goes beyond performing advanced tricks. We understand that you have impeccable technique.

Master (46+ years old)

Within Master, you can enter Amateur, Expert, or Pro. The criteria are the same as described above (for the Absolute category).

Certamen (18+ years old)

This category is dedicated to artists who want to showcase a piece in order to receive feedback on it. The judges will not evaluate the piece according to the scoring criteria used for other categories, but will instead give you feedback based on your goal (preparing an audition for a company, an audition for a circus school, a commercial act, a festival submission...).

4. Technical Regulations by Category

Each edition of Aerial Art may have different particularities. However, in general, the technical regulations by category will be as outlined below. If there are any changes, we will always communicate them and update them on the website.

En caso de que hubiera algún cambio, siempre os lo comunicaremos y lo actualizaremos en la web.

4.1. SUMMARY BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	MAX DURATION	PROHIBITED TRICKS
Junior Amateur	3min 30s	One-arm work (inversions, flares, flag), regrips (not all), roll-ups, inlocates and dislocates
Junior Expert	4min 30s	One-arm inversions and flares, roll-ups and dislocates
Junior Pro	5min	Dislocates
Junior Artist	6min	None
Junior Duo	4min 30s	Dislocates
Absolute / Master Amateur	3min 30s	One-arm work (inversions, flares, flag), regrips (not all), roll-ups, inlocates and dislocates
Absolute / Master Expert	4min 30s	One-arm flares, roll-ups and dislocates
Absolute / Master Pro	5min	Dislocates
Absolute Artist	6min	None
Certamen	5min	Dislocates

4.2. PROHIBITED TRICKS BY CATEGORY

Tricks are prohibited based on experience level, not age. Therefore all AMATEUR categories have the same prohibited tricks, as do all EXPERT and PRO categories. The ARTIST category has no prohibited tricks. In CERTAMEN, only dislocates are prohibited.

4.2.1 AMATEUR

One-arm work

On any apparatus and in all cases, one-arm work is prohibited except in two situations:

Meathook

Static one-arm hang (i.e., hanging from the apparatus without swinging, inverting, etc.)

In other words: no one-arm inversions, swings, flares, or flag positions (a true flag; 'false' flags in which the apparatus is providing support on the hip, leg, etc., are permitted).

Inlocates and dislocates

All tricks involving inlocates and/or dislocates are prohibited in this category. In this regard, it is important to clarify the following silk trick:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CjbKlecAmjX/>

– At the end of the sequence, when transitioning from armpits to pike, there is NO inlocate. The shoulder remains in a neutral position throughout. Therefore this trick is not prohibited.

Regrips

In AMATEUR categories all ONE-HAND regrips are permitted (except the entry into coté) and only the following TWO-HAND regrips:

Entry to belly on the hoop/trapeze

Drop from top bar to bottom bar on the hoop (or from ropes to bar on the trapeze)

– permitted when done without swing or swinging forward. Not permitted when swinging backward.

Dropping to armpits from the top bar to the bottom of the hoop or from the ropes to the bar of the trapeze is also permitted.

The coté exit (on any aerial apparatus), being a one-hand regrip, is permitted. The coté entry, however, is not.

Half butterflies (one-hand regrips) are permitted; full butterflies are not. Sliding the silk down by swinging with a regrip (or sliding hands) on the forward swing is permitted.

Regrips not mentioned in this section are not permitted within this category.

Roll-ups

All roll-ups are prohibited: both those performed with the apparatus wrapping around the waist and those performed by rolling the apparatus around the arms.

4.2.2. EXPERT

One-arm work

One-arm work is prohibited only in the following cases:

One-arm inversions

One-arm flares

Hanging, swinging, meathook, or flag with one arm are permitted.

Roll-ups

All roll-ups are prohibited.

Dislocates

All tricks involving a shoulder dislocate are prohibited. A skin the cat is NOT a dislocate. Inlocate tricks are permitted.

4.2.3. PRO

Within all PRO categories, all tricks are permitted except dislocates.

All inlocates are permitted.

5. Scoring Sheets

The scoring sheets may also vary slightly for each edition. If so, we will inform you and send them by email, as well as updating them on the website. In any case, the following will always apply:

The sheet will be divided into two parts: artistic scoring criteria and technical scoring criteria.

The artistic section will always carry more points than the technical section.

The total sum of both parts (artistic and technical) is 100 points.

If BONUS points are established for any category, they will be added separately.

6. Music and Rigging

Once your spot in the final is confirmed, we will send you a link to the 'Music and Rigging Form.'

In this form you will need to fill in important details about your performance and add your music in .mp3 format.

The form can only be filled out ONCE, so we strongly urge you to review everything carefully before submitting.

Additionally, all forms must be submitted before the established deadline.

There are no exceptions to this rule. If you miss the deadline, you will be disqualified.

7. Photos and Video

Each edition of Aerial Art has its own conditions regarding photographic and video material.

In general, whenever there is professional streaming, the organization will gift each artist the video of their performance.

That video takes approximately one month to reach us, after which we will send it to you (via WeTransfer by email, so keep an eye on your inbox).

As for photos, in each edition you will be able to purchase your complete photo package (prices are announced alongside registration fees).

8. Equipment Test

Every edition of Aerial Art will include an equipment test. The date and time will be announced once the finalist artists are confirmed.

This equipment test is in no way a full run-through of your act. The idea is for you to see where you will be performing, get a clear sense of the dimensions and height, and test the aerial rigging point (you will have a maximum of 2 minutes to do so, including setup and breakdown of your apparatus).

If you cannot attend during your assigned time slot, you are welcome to come and see the stage, but you will not be able to test the aerial rigging point.

If you are using your own apparatus for your act, you must bring it on the equipment test day so the rigging team can number it correctly.

9. Tickets and Accreditations

Access to the event is only possible with a ticket or accreditation.

Who has accreditation?

- **The artists**

- **Coaches**

Only one coach per artist is permitted, and their accreditation is only valid for the day their artist performs.

- **Riggers**

Only one rigger per artist is permitted, and their accreditation is only valid for the day their artist performs.

- **Aerial Art staff**

For all other cases (mothers, fathers, friends, companions, assistants, and any other case you can think of), a ticket is required to access the event.

Children under 3 years old do not need a ticket.

In general, tickets will go on sale one month before the final date. We will share the sales link on social media.