

Hecatina's Miniature Painting Showcase 2026

Hosted by Shearwater Aviation Museum Annual Spring Hobby Show 2026

How to enter.

The competition will take place on Sunday, 3 May 2026, at the Sea King Club at 12 Wing Shearwater. Entry to the spring hobby show is \$5 for adults.

Participation in the miniature painting competition is free.

Registration opens at 10 am. Registration closes at 1 p.m. Results will be announced at 3:00 p.m.

Rules:

One entry per category per person.

Entry must have been painted by the person entering the miniature.

Miniature must have been painted in 2025-26.

Miniature may not have been entered previously in any other online or in-person painting contest.

Any figure from any manufacturer may be entered.

Entries must be brought and dropped off at the Sea King Club by no later than 1 p.m. on Sunday 3 May 2026. Judging and photographing will take place immediately. Results will be announced at 3 pm, and the photos and results will be posted online that evening.

Hecatina Miniature Painting Studio reserves the right to disqualify any entry that we deem to be offensive (graphic violence, racism, graphic sexual content, etc). If in doubt about whether your entry meets these criteria, ask us in advance.

Categories:

Small Figure. A single 28 mm scale figure mounted on a base or plinth (must fit in a 8 cm x 8 cm square, no height limit).

Large Figure. A single figure of any scale. Must fit into a 30 cm x 30 cm square, no height limit.

Diorama. A single display featuring figures that are arranged primarily to tell a story. Must fit inside a 30 x 30 cm square, no height limit.

Bust. A single bust mounted on a plinth. Any manufacturer, 3d print, custom sculpt or whatever.

Special Awards:

Best Age of Sigmar. Selected from all of the categories. Any entry which features an official Age of Sigmar model qualifies. Receives a small trophy.

Best Fairy. Selected from all of the categories. Any entry which features a fairy or fey creature qualifies. Receives a small trophy.

Best Historical. Selected from all of the categories. Any entry which features a real person qualifies. Receives a small trophy.

Best in Show. Selected from among all the entries by the Judges. Receives a large trophy, and your name engraved on the studio plaque with ultimate bragging rights. Receives a small trophy.

Best in Category. Highest score in each category. Receives a small trophy

Best Reaper Mini. Selected by the Judges from among all the entries that feature Reaper Miniatures. Receives a small trophy.

Best Pastry. Selected by the judges from among all the entries that feature some form of baked goods. Receives an actual pastry produced by our resident miniature painter and pastry chef, Pierre Pair.

Judging:

Open System Judging. All entries will be judged against a standard for Gold, Silver or Bronze. All entries that meet the standard will receive a corresponding medal. EG all entries that meet the standard for Silver will receive a Silver Medal.

Contest Scoring Criteria:

Creativity: Scored out of 10.

use of colour and colour schemes

freehand designs

things that are not part of the sculpt itself (eg add expression with painted wrinkles. Conversions, sculpting on additional features like scales or fur... provide photo documentation to show us your cool ideas)

painted effects

story (provide us a short pre-printed written narrative with your entry to explain the lore)

overall composition (spacing, interaction, symmetry/asymmetry)

basing and integration of figure with base

Workmanship: Scored out of 10

model prep for painting

Mold lines and gap filling

Model assembly

Surface prep

finishes

Painting Skill: Scored out of 10

Base coats

Shading

Highlighting

Blending

Execution of painted effects

Cleanness/neatness of painting

Weighted Scoring Criteria: Each of the three scores out of 10 will be multiplied by the % below and added together to get a final score out of 10 for the entry.

Creativity: 25%

Workmanship: 15%

Painting Skill: 60%