



PREMIUM and REGULAR ARTISTS

RULES & REGULATIONS 2026

August 7 - 9, 2026

Palais des congrès de Montréal

201, Viger Avenue West

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1. Important Dates & Deadlines for 2026

WHAT	WHEN
Premium Artist Registration Launch	April 18, 12:00 — April 21, 21:00
Regular Artist Registration Launch	May 2, 12:00 — May 5, 21:00
Last day for partial reimbursement for table cancellations	July 24, 2026 – 23:59
Last day to add a secondary artist or helper	July 12, 2026 – 23:59
Table Assignments Release	July 18, 2026
Last day to notify late arrival	August 5, 2026 – 23:59

2. Artist Information

2.1 Artist Table Rate

PREMIUM Table Weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Table 8 x 2.5 ft (2.5 m × 0.8 m) • 1 Artist Badge • 2 Chairs 	450 CAD
REGULAR Table Weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 1 Table 6 x 2.5 ft (1.8 m × 0.8 m) → 1 Artist Badge → 2 Chairs 	260 CAD

2.2 Artist Badge

One (1) artist badge is included in the price of the table. Artists will receive instructions for payment of their table via email after the signed contract is received. Any additional badges

(secondary artist and/or helper) must be purchased separately by emailing artistsarea@otakuthon.com. The cost for each additional badge is \$70.00 CAD.

All artists as well as helpers must wear their respective artist badge for the duration of the Convention to operate behind an Artist Table.

2.3 Portfolio Requirements

Artist Portfolio / Website Link: artists (main artists, as well as all secondary artists) must provide a portfolio or valid website link in order to present the artwork or handcrafted merchandise they will be selling during the Convention.

For verification purposes, all artists who use digital drawing software must submit a link to files (using Google Drive, YouTube, etc.) according to one (1) of the following criteria:

- A time-lapse video of a drawing, with the majority of the image visible for a good portion of the video. This video should demonstrate the various stages of the artwork (sketch, lineart, color, etc.).
- A Photoshop document (PSD) or Portable Document Format (PDF) containing all layers. Ideally, the layers should be separated into sketch, lineart, base colouring, and final colouring.
- Screenshots of the drawing process with the software interface visible (including software name and layers window). Ideally, steps such as sketching, lineart, and colouring are provided.

Artists who make handcrafted merchandise must submit process photos or videos showing various stages of production. Crafters are also required to submit photos of their creations via link (for example using Google Drive, or on their portfolio). If these creations include digital graphics or drawings, you must comply with AI verification and submit one of the files mentioned in the above section.

3D prints: 3D-printed merchandise must be entirely your own original work. 3D-printed fanart is not allowed due to the complexities of screening such works. At least one video must be provided and show the modelling process of a product from beginning to end; parts of the video must feature the model in full view. Screenshots alone are insufficient.

2.4 Artist Groups and Helpers

IMPORTANT: All individuals operating behind a table in the Artists' Area must be registered with Artists' Area staff. Artists and helpers must wear and keep their

artist badge visible for the duration of the Convention. A person without an artist badge may not be present behind the table at any time.

2.4.1 Artist Group Composition

Artists may form an Artist Group and sign up for a table together. A maximum of three (3) people are allowed in a Group, with up to two (2) artists (main artist and secondary artist combined) per table. Examples:

- One (1) main artist, with zero (0) to two (2) helper(s) maximum;
- One (1) main artist, with one (1) secondary artist, and zero (0) to one (1) helper maximum.

The main artist will be the Artist Group leader and sole contact person with the Artists' Area staff. It is the responsibility of the leader to transmit all information and documents to the rest of the Group.

A maximum of 2 persons can be present behind a table during opening hours to avoid overcrowding.

Badges for the secondary artist and helpers can be purchased for \$70.00 CAD each. Badges for Artist Group members cannot be purchased after the deadline for adding a secondary artist or helper (by July 12, 2026 latest); artist badges are not available for purchase during the Convention.

If you are a duo or a collective of artists, see section 2.7 Proxy for more information.

2.4.2 Helpers

Artist helpers must be sixteen (16) years or older. If any artist within the Group is selling mature content, the helper must be eighteen (18) years or older.

If you wish to have someone watch your table, they must be signed up in your Artist Group. **Only those with an artist badge may set up and operate behind a table in the Artists' Area.** Artists cannot ask a family member, friend, or anyone without an artist badge to watch their table.

2.4.3 Adding Group Members

Artists who are selected for a table will be sent a form via email to add a secondary artist or helpers. If you are adding a secondary artist or helpers at a later date, please make your request through this form to help us keep information properly organized.

Secondary artists and helpers should not preregister through the attendee preregistration portal; artist and helper badges are sold directly through the Artists' Area.

2.5 Payment

After the contract is signed and returned, artists will receive a link to create their preregistration account and pay for their table. If a secondary artist or helper is added later, the main artist will receive payment details and is responsible for forwarding it to their secondary artist or helper.

- A main artist who does not submit their contract or fails to pay for the table reservation within the set deadline is considered to have forfeited their reservation.
- A secondary artist who does not submit their contract or fails to pay for their badge within the set deadline will be removed from their Artist Group.
- A helper who fails to pay for their badge within the set deadline will be removed from their Artist Group.

No exceptions are allowed. Once removed from an Artist Group for failure to return a contract or non-payment, the individual cannot be added again.

2.6 Wi-Fi

In partnership with the Palais des congrès de Montréal, Wi-Fi access can be purchased at the cost of \$75.00 CAD for the duration of the Convention. This price includes **one unique Wi-Fi connection for a single user on a single device**. If a table has two artists who both wish to connect a device to the Palais des congrès de Montréal Wi-Fi, two connections must be purchased.

Information regarding this service will be emailed to artists with a table reservation closer to the event.

2.7 Proxy

Artists who wish to sell at Otakuthon must be present physically at the Convention for the entire duration of the event. **The sale of merchandise through a proxy is strictly forbidden.** Artists found proxying will be removed from the Convention premises without compensation or refund.

In the case of artists who form a duo, both artists must be present as either a main artist or a secondary artist in order to sell collaborative works. If both artists cannot be present at

the event as a main artist or secondary artist, only solo works by the attending artist can be sold. Artists who form a duo may **either apply together under their collaborative name or as individual artists, but not both**, since this confers an unfair second entry in the lottery. If the members of an art duo are found applying individually as well as for the group to give themselves extra entries in the lottery, their application will be rejected and they will be banned from applying for the current year.

Collaborative works featuring more than two artists cannot be sold unless all artists are present at the Convention as a main artist or secondary artist.

Art collectives consisting of more than 2 artists are strictly forbidden. They cannot apply as a group under the name of a single member. Sending one member to represent the entirety of the collective is considered proxying.

College or university art clubs are the sole exception to this rule. We aim to encourage budding young artists; therefore, multimember art clubs that exist within an academic setting may submit an application. A club's portfolio must comprise works from each participating artist, clearly tagged in separate folders. Please note that the art club member who represents the club during application cannot also apply as an individual artist, as this affords an unfair advantage in the lottery.

2.8 Refunds & Cancellations

If you can no longer attend Otakuthon or do not wish to keep your table, please contact the Artists' Area staff (artistsarea@otakuthon.com) as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements. **A refund of 50% of the table value only, and nothing else, will be issued for any cancellations made before July 5, 2026 - 11:59 PM. Any cancellation after this date is non-refundable.** In the event an artist is found to be infringing on Artists' Area rules after they have completed table payment, their table may be revoked without any refund.

Artist tables are non-transferable. An artist may not resell their table to a friend or another artist. **Any artist found reselling their table will have their table revoked without refund and be blacklisted in future event applications.**

3. Rules and Regulations 2026

3.1 Displays

Backdrops and freestanding structures are permitted if they do not block exits or interfere with neighbouring areas or traffic within the Artists' Area. They must be constructed in a safe manner.

The maximum height of all stands and structures in the Premium Artists' Area must not exceed 8 ft (2.5 m) in height above the table: equivalent to approx. 10.5 ft (3.2 m) from the ground.

IMPORTANT: Per the fire marshal's instructions, a 2 ft (0.6 cm) wide corridor must be maintained at all times between artists.

No article may be taped or otherwise hung on any walls anywhere in the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

3.2 Three Strike Rule

All artists must adhere to the rules and regulations of the Exhibition Hall. Failure to do so may result in immediate expulsion from the Convention premises without compensation or refund.

If an artist or helper commits an offence, they will receive a warning and be given a chance to rectify the issue within a set time. Failure to remedy the offence in this set time may result in immediate expulsion from the Convention premises, depending on the severity of the offence.

A second offence will be treated in the same manner. The third and final offence will result in the immediate expulsion of the artist and their Group from the Convention as well as all future Otakuthon events. Strikes are documented and will be considered in future applications.

3.3 General Conduct

All artists must follow the Artist Application Contract, Artist Guide and Otakuthon's general policies. Please refer to the Rules and Policies section on the website for more information. The following rules will be enforced during the Convention:

- 3.3.1 **Artists may only use the one (1) Artist Table assigned to them.** Artists may not use or display artwork in areas not assigned to them. Artists may not borrow other spaces or chairs which are not assigned to them even if they are not in use.
- 3.3.2 Artists may not block or interfere with any other artists, dealers or exhibitors.
- 3.3.3 A maximum of two (2) persons can be present behind a table during opening hours to avoid overcrowding.
- 3.3.4 **Harassment of or derogatory remarks towards Otakuthon staff members or volunteers will not be tolerated.**
- 3.3.5 **Harassment of or bullying of other artists will not be tolerated. Please report any such incidents to staff.**
- 3.3.6 The Artist Group leader is responsible for their secondary artist and/or helper(s). If a Group member commits an infraction, the Artist Group leader will be held accountable and will be subject to the Three Strike Rule. The Artist Group may be removed from the Artists' Area without compensation or refund.
- 3.3.7 Artists can eat within the Artists' Area if they keep their space clean. Any allocated spaces found to be excessively dirty at the end of the convention will have the cleaning charges billed.

3.4 Merchandise

- 3.4.1 **Artists are responsible for ensuring that they have the required rights for all items sold at their table (ex: merchandise sold must be created entirely by the selling artist).**
- 3.4.2 **Manipulated images, traced images, and images deliberately copied from official artwork or fan works are strictly forbidden.**
- 3.4.3 **Exact copies and replicas of existing merchandise, official designs, or game assets may not be sold in the Artists' Area. This includes, but is not limited to, logos, emblems, exact reproductions of sprites or items from anime or game series.**
- 3.4.4 Food and drinks may not be sold or distributed in the Artists' Area.
- 3.4.5 All materials displayed must be suitable for a general audience (within the guidelines of the PG film rating). Materials depicting nudity, sexual acts, or other forms of adult material are permitted but must not be displayed unless they are covered sufficiently or hidden from the view of minors. Artists who do not follow

this rule may be asked to immediately remove the offending material. The artist will receive a strike for violating the Adult Content policy .

- 3.4.6 **Artists and their helpers who sell adult materials must be of age 18 and above.** The acceptability of materials is at the discretion of the Artists' Area Team, who may request the removal of any offending pieces.
- 3.4.7 Pirated, 'bootleg', unlicensed or illegal materials may not be sold on the Convention premises. It is the responsibility of the artist to find out what items and products are bootleg or not. For more information on bootleg, please contact the Dealers' Area Director at dealers@otakuthon.com. Otakuthon staff will ask the artist to remove any item violating the bootleg policy. The artist will receive a strike for violating the bootleg policy. If the artist repeats the offence, said item·s will be confiscated by Otakuthon staff for the rest of the Convention and returned to the artist afterwards.
- 3.4.8 It is strictly forbidden to do any lottery or luck-based transactions that would require a permit from the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux*.
- 3.4.9 Stamp rallies are permitted only if they are completely free. Artists cannot require participants to purchase merchandise in exchange for participation in a stamp rally, to obtain a stamp at a checkpoint, or to collect any prize. Artists must also submit their rally for approval. Please see section 3.7 Stamp Rallies for more information.
- 3.4.10 All artwork must follow the fan art policy (Please look at References for information).
- 3.4.11 In the Dealers' Area and Artists' Area, there will be no onsite printing of any kind of art on fabric or object that can be done in mass production. Automated or self-serve art printing booths are forbidden.

3.5 Rules for Adult Content (18+)

- 3.5.1 **Artists who wish to sell 18+/NSFW merchandise must submit images of their products in advance for approval from the Artists' Area staff.**
- 3.5.2 **Adult materials may only be shown and sold to individuals of age eighteen (18) and above who show proof of age through photo identification. IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE TO SHOW PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL TO MINORS.**
- 3.5.3 Nudity in any type of 18+/NSFW merchandise must be fully covered in order to be displayed. Post-it notes are not enough, and censoring must be done in a way that minors are unable to access materials that are not age appropriate.

- 3.5.4 If the artwork depicts a character in a suggestive pose, the entirety of the image must be covered so that anyone cannot guess the contents.
- 3.5.5 NSFW merchandise or catalogues must be stored in a discreet manner and hidden from the view of attendees. If an attendee wishes to view any NSFW content, the artist must provide an environment where the catalogue and/or merchandise will not be in full view of other attendees.
- 3.5.6 Artists who do not follow these rules may be asked to immediately remove the offending material. The artist will receive a strike for violating the Adult Content policy in accordance with the Three Strike Rule.
- 3.5.7 Artists who sell 18+/NSFW merchandise must comply with any recommendations and/or requests made by Artists' Area staff.
- 3.5.8 In case of doubt, please contact the Artists' Area staff with any questions or concerns. Any decision made by Artists' Area staff in relation to Adult Content is final and without appeal.

3.6 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Generated Content

AI-generated content is made with prompts through programs that use images from the Internet. These images are taken without permission from the websites of creators and media sites to train AI. Due to controversies caused by such content, Otakuthon prohibits the sale of AI-generated content within the Exhibition Hall.

- 3.6.1 An artist is a human (person) while AI is not. It therefore does not meet the requirement to be in the Artists' Area.
- 3.6.2 A programmer who programs AI is not considered an artist.
- 3.6.3 For verification purposes, all artists who use digital drawing software must submit a link to files (for example using Google Drive or YouTube).
- 3.6.4 AI assistance tools such as "AI Generation" from Photoshop or "Colourize" from Clip Studio are tolerated, as long as they do not constitute more than 20% of the drawing. AI assistance tools are defined as tools that optimize or assist an artist, as long as they do not constitute a majority of the final work.

3.7 Stamp Rallies

Stamp rallies must be completely free to participate. Paid options are not allowed even if a free alternative is provided. In addition, stamp rally leaders must submit their

rally for approval this year. A form will be available for hosts to submit their stamp rally details.

In order to reduce table crowding and traffic during the Convention, each table can be part of a maximum of three (3) stamp rallies. The maximum of three (3) applies regardless of the number of artists in the Artist Group.

Every stamp card given out must yield a prize. The amount of available stamp cards must equal the number of available prizes. A stamp rally group must not give out a card knowing that there is a shortage of prizes.

Artists may withhold a stamp card from a participant if they do not fulfill an initial requirement, but once the participant has started collecting stamps, the stamp rally cannot withhold a stamp in a situation where fulfilling a condition is impossible for the participant.

We highly recommend capping the number of artists in a stamp rally group to 10-12.

3.8 Use of the French language

3.8.1 According to the *Office québécois de la langue française*, artists must comply with the Charter of the French language during the Convention.

3.8.2 Any main banners, posters, or labels must contain French.

3.8.3 If several languages are displayed, French must be given priority above all.

3.8.4 For more information about the Charter of the French Language, please refer to:
<https://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/document/rc/C-11.%20r.%209?langCont=fr#ga:l iv 1-gb:l 3-h1>

References

- <https://www.animenewsnetwork.com/feature/the-law-of-anime/2013-02-15/2#:~:text=Fanart%20and%20doujinshi%20of%20actual,different%20works%20as%20several%20infringements>.
 - <https://www.animenewsnetwork.com/news/2015-07-01/funimation-issues-statement-on-fan-art-and-trademark-rights/.89972>
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