ABDA ✳ 24

Call For
Entries

abda.com.au

ABDA 72nd Australian Book Design Awards

OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS THUR 16/11/2023 TO FRI 22/12/2023

The awards will be presented at an event in May 2024, when the Designers' Choice Book of the Year – which ABDA members vote for – will also be announced.

Enter at abda.com.au

For questions or more information contact the ABDA team info@abda.com.au

Late entries will not be accepted.

* indicates change to category and/or criteria

The Australian Book Design Awards showcase the best of the best in book design by Australian designers and are ***** open to any book designed and published in any country for the first time between 1 January and 31 December 2023.

Books that have been previously published and reissued or reprinted are ineligible, unless they have been substantially redesigned.

Entries will initially be submitted online and viewed online by the judges. All shortlisted books will then be judged in hardcopy. Nominees for the Emerging Designer of the Year award may enter their titles in other award categories.

Designs must be original, must be the work of the entrant and may not repurposed from another design – the use of photography or illustrations commissioned, art directed or selected by another designer is not eligible (e.g. from an overseas design).

The term 'illustrations' refers to pictorial matter and includes handmade, digital and photographic images.

Images must be supplied using the awards' naming convention rules or they will not be accepted. **Please refer to the Submission Guidelines on page 6.**

Once shortlisted, entrants will be required to supply two non-returnable hard copies of the work for judging, display and archiving. Please note: hard copies are not required for student entries.

The panel of expert judges will be announced in early 2024. Designer-judges are eligible to enter the awards, however they are required to recuse themselves from judging their own work.

The ABDA Committee reserves the right to move entries to categories that are better suited to the title and, where no entry is deemed to have won, not to make an award in that category. All judging decisions are final.

ENTRY FEES

EARLY BIRD ENTRY FEES
Closes midnight 05.12.2023

Members: $39.50
Non-Members: $69.50

Small-run book category:

Entries in the Small-run Book category are free for the 2024 awards.

Student categories:

To support the next generation of Australian book designers, student entries are free and include a complimentary ABDA Student Membership for 12 months.

REGULAR ENTRY FEES
06.12.2023–22.12.2023

Members: $59.50
Non-Members: $89.50

Small-run book category:

Entries in the Small-run Book category are free for the 2024 awards.

Student categories:

To support the next generation of Australian book designers, student entries are free and include a complimentary ABDA Student Membership for 12 months.

CATEGORIES

Best Designed Commercial Fiction Cover
Best Designed Literary Fiction/Poetry Cover
Best Designed Non-Fiction Cover
Best Designed Series Cover
* Best Designed Fully Illustrated Book under $75
* Best Designed Fully Illustrated Book over $75
Best Designed Cookbook
Best Designed Educational Primary/Secondary Book
Best Designed Educational Tertiary Book
Best Designed Children's Picture Book
Best Designed Children's Non-Fiction Book
* Best Designed Junior Fiction Book
Best Designed Children's/Young Adult Series Cover
* Best Designed Children's/Young Adult Cover
* Best Designed Small-run Book
Best Designed Student Cover
Best Designed Student Book
Best Designed Student Series
* Deb Brash Emerging Designer of the Year

ABDA JUDGES' CHOICE AWARDS

Book of the Year 2024
Cover of the Year 2024

ABDA DESIGNERS' CHOICE

Designers' Choice Book of the Year 2024
(as voted for by ABDA members on the night of the awards)

100 WORD DESIGN RATIONALE

A short rationale written by the designer must accompany each entry. The rationale should explain the designer's concept and process. The rationale is not a publisher's blurb, but rather a statement written by the designer describing: how you responded to the publisher's brief, any budget constraints, any unique challenges you faced in the design process, and anything you feel the judges should know about the book to help them understand the concept behind the design. The design rationale is a crucial part of the judging process and helps the judges understand your design at a deeper level.

Best Designed Commercial Fiction Cover

A 'commercial fiction' title is aimed at mass and targeted markets and includes genre fiction such as crime, romance, adventure, thriller, fantasy, science fiction, horror, comedy, etc. Books in this category are judged on the cover alone.

Best Designed Literary Fiction/Poetry Cover

'Literary fiction' describes fictional works that hold literary merit of lasting value. A title is considered 'literary' when it is eligible for literary prizes, such as the Miles Franklin Award, Premiers' Literary Prizes and the Man Booker Prize. Poetry books should be entered in this category (regardless of whether they are fiction or non-fiction poetry). Books in this category are judged on the cover alone.

Best Designed Non-Fiction Cover

A non-fiction book judged on the cover alone. Illustrations and/or images must make up less than 10% of the total internal pages.

Best Designed Series Cover

A series consists of at least two titles designed to be clearly related to each other and with at least one published in the competition year. The submitted works should be by the originating designer of the 'series design', i.e., not by another designer using a predesigned template. Books in this category are judged on the cover alone. Books may only be entered in the series category once.

✳ Best Designed Fully Illustrated Book under $75

A book with over 50% of its pages containing pictorial matter retailing at under RRP $75. Entrants must supply a minimum of four internal spreads for fully illustrated titles.

✳ Best Designed Fully Illustrated Book over $75

A book with over 50% of its pages containing pictorial matter retailing at RRP $75 or above. Entrants must supply a minimum of four internal spreads for fully illustrated titles.

Best Designed Cookbook

A book of recipes or writing on food that includes recipes, which may or may not include illustrations.

Best Designed Educational Primary/Secondary Book

An education textbook designed for primary or secondary students. To be considered a textbook the book must be aligned to an officially recognised Australian curriculum.

Best Designed Educational Tertiary Book

An education textbook designed for tertiary students. To be considered a textbook the book must be aligned to an officially recognised Australian curriculum

Best Designed Children's Picture Book

A story book for children aged up to 11 with 50% or more of pictorial matter. Designs must be original, not repurposed or part of an existing series style.

Best Designed Children's Non-Fiction Book

A non-fiction book for children aged up to 11 with 50% or more of pictorial matter. Designs must be original, not repurposed or part of an existing series style.

✳ Best Designed Junior Fiction Book

A fiction book for children aged 5 and over with a minimum of 50% illustrations.

Best Designed Children's/ Young Adult Series Cover

At least two titles aimed at readers up to age 18, designed as part of a related series, with at least one published in the competition year. The submitted works should be by the originating designer of the 'series design', i.e., not by another designer using a pre-designed template. Books may only be entered in the series category once. Books in this category are judged on the cover alone.

* Best Designed Children's/Young Adult Cover

A book in any genre for readers up to age 18. Books in this category are judged on the cover alone.

* Best Designed Small-run Book

This category is for indie, non-institutional book design projects with an emphasis on originality and experimentation. Books must be at least 24 pages long with a print run of more than 25 copies and fewer than 100. Artists' books do not apply. This category is also open to students.

Best Designed Student Cover

This category judges the quality of a book cover's design and is open to works of fiction or non-fiction. Journal and notebook designs do not apply.

Best Designed Student Book

This category judges the quality of a book design's integration of cover and internal pages. Books must be at least 16 pages long and may be fiction or non-fiction written for any market. There are no format restrictions, however, the design must be conceived for high volume production. Artists' books do not apply.

Best Designed Student Series

This category judges the quality of a design of a series for three or more covers for books of fiction or non-fiction. Journal and notebook designs do not apply.

Deb Brash Emerging Designer of the Year

Each year ABDA acknowledges the work of a designer who is in the early stages of their career but with a bright future clearly ahead of them. To be considered for Emerging Designer of the Year the applicant must have no greater than five years' experience working as a book designer on 31 December 2023. They must submit four titles individually, filling in all relevant details – even if they have uploaded these titles in other categories.

* The publication date of the books that you enter can be from any year across the span of your book design career (ie, 5 years or less). After applicants complete their nomination, they will be contacted and asked to provide a brief statement about their design philosophy. This award includes a $500 cash prize to put towards design education and professional development, to support the winning designer in their career. Applicants should fill out an entry form for each book submitted (four entries in total).

ARTWORK SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

For cover only categories:
- Flat front cover
- Flat full cover (front, spine and back covers)
- Front cover thumbnail image

For book categories:
- Flat front cover
- Flat full cover (front, spine and back covers)
- Front cover thumbnail image
- internal pages

For Series cover categories:
- Flat front cover
- Flat full cover (front, spine and back covers)
- Front cover thumbnail image

For all categories:
Entrants are encouraged to submit photos or digital mock ups to show the physicality/ materiality of the book.

Artwork MUST be submitted using the ABDA awards artwork naming convention below:

- BookTitle_Front_Cover.jpg (or pdf)
- BookTitle_Full_Flat_Cover.jpg (or pdf)
- BookTitle_Thumbnail.jpg (or pdf)
- BookTitle_internals.pdf
- BookTitle_Photo_1.jpg (or pdf)
- BookTitle_Photo_2.jpg (or pdf)
- BookTitle_Photo_3.jpg (or pdf)

Note: To qualify for judging, supplied artwork must adhere to the naming conventions and image specifications. Resubmission will be required for non-compliant entries.

Cover thumbnail
no trims or bleed, JPG or PDF accepted, **max size 1MB.**

COVER THUMBNAIL [LOW RES]

Flat front cover
no trims or bleed, JPG or PDF accepted, **max size 10MB.**

FLAT FRONT COVER

Full flat cover
no trims or bleed JPG or PDF accepted **Maximum file size is 10MB.**

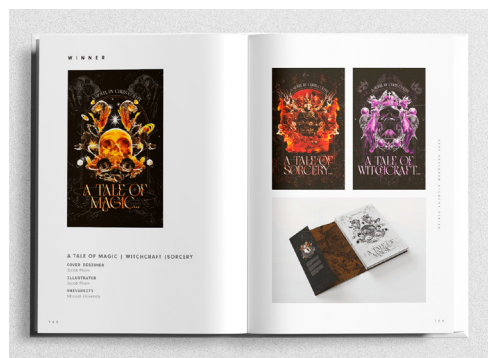BACK COVER | SPINE | FRONT COVER

Internal pages
Please upload ONE multipage pdf of 4 to 10 spreads maximum. No trim marks or bleed. **Maximum file size is 20MB.**

Photos/mock ups
Photos or digital mock ups of the book are encouraged to show physicality of the book. (If it is an unusual format, place a pencil for comparison next to the book). Max 3 photos. JPG or PDF accepted, **max size 5MB.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

My book was published overseas. Is it eligible for entry?

Yes it is! ABDA is celebrating the best work from Australian book designers so we figure that all books designed by Australian designers are up for a gong.

Non-fiction

Which category do I enter my non-fiction book into?

Either 'Non-Fiction Cover' or one of the two 'Fully Illustrated Book categories. To enter the 'Cover' category, illustrations and/or images must make up less than 10% of the total internal pages and the entry will be judged on the cover alone. If the internals have more than 50% of Illustration and/or images it would then be eligible for one of the 'Fully Ilustrated Book' categories and will be judged as an entire book.

Series

I have entered my book design in a previous year, and it has now become a series – can I submit book two for judging this year?

Designs must be original and may not be repurposed from another design. As the design has been judged previously for book 1 you cannot enter it into a 'Book' or 'Cover' category a second time. It may, however, be entered into a 'Series' category. Books can also only be entered in the series category once. To be eligible for series category, at least one book must be published in the judging year, it does not matter if this is book one or eight.

Students

I'm a student and I do not have a physical mock-up of my design – can I still enter?

Yes, due to the nature of student work the 'Cover', 'Book' and 'Series' categories will be judged digitally. We encourage you to submit a 3D mock-up of your work to indicate size, format, and embellishments alongside flat artwork.

Deb Brash Emerging Designer of the Year

How do I enter my four books on the Awards Website?

Please select the 'Deb Brash Emerging Designer of the Year' category and fill in the relevant information for each title.

When should my 4 books have been published?

The publication date of the books that you can enter can be from any year across the span of your book design career (ie, 5 years or less).

General

I entered my book in one category and it moved into another category.

The awards committee sometimes move entries around if a book has either been mistakenly submitted into a category that it's not eligible for, or, if after an audit of all the books in a particular category, the committee deems that the book is not comparable 'genre-wise' to the other titles in the category. We strive to give each entry its best chance for fair appraisal by the judges.