PubWest, the leading trade association of small- and medium-sized book publishers, has announced the opening of the 2023 PubWest Book Design Awards competition.

PubWest Book Design Awards were developed to recognize superior design and outstanding production quality of books throughout North America. As we celebrate our 39th annual awards, PubWest invites you to submit your 2023 titles.

Brad Farmer, CEO at Gibbs Smith, tells us, “As part of an employee-owned benefit corporation at Gibbs Smith Books, we recognize that books are more than an assembly-line product. They should also add color and craft to our shelves and tables. We select authors, photographers, illustrators, and designers that share that goal and want to add beauty to the world through books. We were so pleased that the PubWest Design Awards committee recognized these efforts and now allow us to celebrate the many, many people who worked together to build this book into an award winner."

Angela Engel, Publisher and Founder of The Collective Book Studio, added, "As an emerging independent press, it is an honor to quickly be recognized with three PubWest Design awards for our outstanding lifestyle, gift, and children’s titles. The Collective Book Studio’s publishing philosophy has always been rooted in sustaining the art of the book, and I appreciate that organizations like PubWest continue to uphold this tradition too."

Entry Eligibility
- Open to all publishers in North America, along with the designers, typographers, and printers supporting them.

Rules for Entry
- An individual title may be entered in no more than three categories. There are 19 categories (details here). Note: Categories have changed this year; please read carefully. A Judges’ Choice Award may be selected from the pool of submissions.
- A separate book must be submitted for each category entered.
- Cover Design can be an add-on category. If you enter your book into another category, for $50 you can add-on to enter into this category.
- Entries in the Cover Design categories must be submitted on the finished book – no separate/detached jackets or covers will be accepted.
- Fees per entry: $75 for PubWest members and $100 for non-members (join PubWest here).
- Entries must be submitted online by December 15, 2023; all books must be received by December 22, 2023.
- Click here to enter on the PubWest website.
- Print a copy of the entry and place it inside the front cover of each submission.
• Ship entries and forms to: PubWest Book Design Awards, % Janet Benson, 12727 Highland Ct, Auburn, CA 95603.
• Items submitted for judging will not be returned.

The Judging
A diverse panel of expert interdisciplinary judges will review each submission. Entries will be judged on format, layout, typography, cover design, materials, and production quality. Judges are presented with uniform criteria for evaluating each category. A Judges’ Choice award may be selected from the books submitted.

Awards
A pool of finalist entries for each of the categories will be determined, from which three levels of awards may be chosen (Gold, Silver, and Bronze). Publishers will be notified after completion of the final judging. Winning entries will be displayed at the 2024 PubWest Conference, February 6-8 in Phoenix. Press releases will be sent to the regional and trade press.

Please contact the PubWest office with questions: executivedirector@pubwest.org.