

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Nor'easter Blows In for 2019 Plein Air Grand Marais**

Outdoor Painters of Minnesota announces 2019 awards in the sixteenth annual Plein Air Grand Marais competition.

GRAND MARAIS, MN. September 13, 2019

From September 6-13, 2019 in far northeastern Minnesota, painters converged on the North Shore of Lake Superior for Plein Air Grand Marais, an outdoor painting festival and competition organized by Outdoor Painters of Minnesota and hosted by the Cook County Historical Society's Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery. The event is marked by spectacular scenery, sudden weather changes, unpredictable temperatures, and some of the finest plein air painters in America.

Artists braved high winds and raging surf on Lake Superior for the Quick Paint as a Nor'easter blew in on Thursday of Competition Week. The culminating exhibit at Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery is a visual diary of world class paintings displaying the week's rugged scenery, capricious weather, outdoor activities and everyday life in one of small-town America's most beloved arts destinations. The exhibit runs through Sunday, October 6, 2019.

This year's Competition juror was oil painter Joshua Cunningham from Saint Paul, Minnesota. A total of 75 painters competed in the juried Competition. 32 painters registered for the Open Class, and many more arrived just to paint and attend Mini-Workshops.

Top awards went to:

#### **Main Category**

1st place: Bob Upton — "Root Beer Water" — oil  
2nd Place: Brock Larson — "Birch Trees" — oil  
3rd Place: Richard Abraham — "On the Corner" — oil  
4<sup>th</sup> Place: Christopher Copeland — "Cascade River Falls" — oil  
Honorable Mention: Dan Mondloch — "Iconic Artist Point" — watercolor  
Honorable Mention: Dan Mackerman — "Marine Nocturne" — oil  
Honorable Mention: Cheryl LeClair-Sommer — "Clear Water" — oil

#### **Night Paint**

Night Paint 1<sup>st</sup> place: Carl Bretzke — "Campground Lights" — oil  
Night Paint 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Neil Sherman — "Lawn Riders" — oil  
Night Paint 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Tom McGregor — "Harbor Moon" — oil

**Quick Paint**

Quick Paint 1<sup>st</sup> place: Hannah C. Heyer — “Wind and Waves” — oil

Quick Paint 2<sup>nd</sup> place: David Gilsvik — “Sound ‘n Fury” — oil

Quick Paint 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Krystal Brown — “Up” — oil

**Best Historic Place** award sponsored and selected by Cook County Historical Society:

Mickey Cunningham — “Guarding the Coast” — oil

**Best Sense of Place** award sponsored by Outdoor Painters of Minnesota:

Krystal Brown — “Far Light” — oil

**Best Atmospheric Perspective** sponsored by Raphael Oil Colors: Philip Alexander Carlton

— “Lost in the Mist”— oil

**Best Gunflint Trail** sponsored by Big Bear Lodge: Scott Lloyd Anderson — “Montreal

Canoe” — oil

**Art of Golf** award sponsored by Gunflint Hills Golf Course — Diane Foster — “Gunflint Hills

Golf Course” — oil

**Beauty of Pastel** award sponsored by Lake Country Pastel Society — Laura Frykman —

“Northern Garden” — pastel

**Beauty of Oil** award sponsored by Lakeside Studio: Kelly Schamberger — “Consequence of

Rain” — oil

**Beauty of Watercolor** award sponsored by Outdoor Painters of Minnesota — James

Turner — “Artist Point View” — watercolor

**Open Class Best in Show:** Connie Riedman — “Dry Dock” — oil

**Open Class Honorable Mention:** Patricia Undis — “Artist Point” — oil

**Art on the Rocks** people’s choice award for Open Class division of the Quick Paint: Connie

Riedman — “View from Coast Guard Station” — oil

Plein Air Grand Marais is organized by Outdoor Painters of Minnesota together with the Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery. Beginning in 2018, the competition has expanded in scope to include activities for painters of all experience levels, including daily Mini-Workshops with professional level Competition painters and a daily public art activity where visitors may try plein air painting at Joy & Co., a local gift and art supply store in Grand Marais. Participating artists enjoy daily, organized opportunities to socialize in the thriving village of Grand Marais and along the scenic North Shore of Lake Superior as well as up the Gunflint Trail to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. A traditional Thursday night hootenanny inspires some to bring instruments, and painters gather after the Quick Paint to play and sing around a fire at the local campground.

Dates for 2020 Plein Air Grand Marais are now set: September 11-18, 2020 is Competition Week, and the exhibit will run through October 11, 2020. Registration information will be posted on OPM's web page for the event: <http://www.outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/plein-air-grand-marais.html>

For more information about Plein Air Grand Marais, contact Allison Eklund, Events Director of Outdoor Painters of Minnesota (651) 592-7858 or [allison@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org](mailto:allison@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org). For more information about Outdoor Painters of Minnesota, contact Naomi Tiry Salgado, President at (715) 441-5256. Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery can be contacted by calling the Gallery Manager, Elizabeth Davis, at (218) 387-2314 or [jhp@boreal.org](mailto:jhp@boreal.org).

<http://www.outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/plein-air-grand-marais.html>  
<https://www.cookcountyhistory.org/johnson-heritage-post-art-gallery>

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**Accompanying Photos:**

See emailed Dropbox link