



## 2020 Artist Guide & Rules

### Background

Plein Air Grand Marais has been an annual tradition since 2008, when it was first organized by the Grand Marais Art Colony. In 2018, GMAC passed the torch to Outdoor Painters of Minnesota (OPM), which organizes the event in collaboration with Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery (JHP), which hosts the Competition exhibit. JHP is operated by the Cook County Historical Society (CCHS). Both OPM and CCHS are nonprofits, and all proceeds of Plein Air Grand Marais are used to reinvest in the future of the event and each organization’s respective mission.

[Outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org](http://Outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org) | [Cookcountyhistory.org](http://Cookcountyhistory.org)

### **\*Special Rules and Procedures for 2020\***

In response to the challenges and uncertainties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizers have launched “dual-track” programming to enable painters to participate and paint from any location, while going ahead with outdoor on-site activities in Grand Marais. Here are some key changes this year, and please note that procedures are subject to change:

- **Paint anywhere.** Both Open Class and Competition painters may submit plein air paintings created for PAGM — that is, not previously published or submitted to any other exhibit or event — between June 1 and September 18, 2020.
- **Submit painting images electronically** using JotForm applications published on OPM’s PAGM web site. In lieu of panel stamping, an in-progress or selfie-with-painting photo from your painting location is required with each painting submission.
- **Competition Artists coming to Grand Marais may hang 1 painting in JHP** and provide up to 3 paintings in Reserve. Reserve paintings are not eligible for awards. The limited scope of exhibit is due to staff and volunteer limitations as well as shorter building open hours and 12-person indoor capacity during the pandemic. Painting drop-off is by appointment or during open hours during Competition Week. Contact: Elizabeth Davis, Gallery Manager, [johnsonheritagepostgallery@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonheritagepostgallery@gmail.com), (715) 791-4946.
- **All jurying is online.** Our juror will evaluate digital painting images only.
- **Mini-Workshops** may include live-streaming or video recording of demonstrations for viewing by participants at home. Free workshop attendance is offered to volunteers willing to record a workshop. Contact [allison@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org](mailto:allison@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org) to inquire.

- **Quick Paint** event in Grand Marais is planned for Thursday at 3:30-5:00pm, with **jurying of unframed paintings on the rocks on the East Bay shoreline from 5:00-5:30pm immediately after the event.** Paintings possibly may be displayed in JHP for the duration of exhibit, depending on space and staff/volunteer availability to receive and hang paintings.
- **A Live-Streamed Exhibit Tour** with Neil Sherman at JHP will be scheduled for Saturday morning September 19, 2020, with potential for additional virtual tours with Competition Artists during the exhibit.

### Key Dates / Times / Locations

- In 2020, due to limited staff and volunteers at JHP and pandemic-related restriction on the number of persons inside the Gallery, **PAGM Headquarters will be outdoors at the Harbor Picnic Shelter in Grand Marais Municipal Campground.** This is our usual location of the Hootenanny on Thursday night. Artists attending in person in Grand Marais between September 11-18, 2020, should contact organizer Allison Eklund (651) 592-7858 or stop by the Picnic Shelter during available hours to pick up pre-ordered merchandise, Artist packets with name tags, and for any last minute registration for Mini-Workshops.
- **Quick Paint**, open to all registered artists present in Grand Marais, is scheduled from 3:30–5:00pm, Thursday, September 17 around Artists’ Point. Check in at the East Bay picnic table starting at 3:00pm. Artists register and receive a number to display for voting at East Bay, where paintings are displayed on the rocks immediately after the horn blows at 5:30pm. Neil Sherman will select the winners of the Open Class, and the Competition Juror Kathie Wheeler selects the winners in the Competition Class.
- **Hootenanny**, 7–10pm, Thursday, September 12 at the harbor picnic shelter/pavilion at Grand Marais Municipal Campground.
- **Artist Socials** will be scheduled outdoors at the Campground Harbor Picnic Shelter on Friday and Monday nights during Competition Week, plus campfire socials at Sugarloaf Family Cabins starting at 4pm on Sunday and at Neil Sherman’s home on Tuesday night. Check the schedule for details, posted on OPM’s web site.
- **Final Reception and Awards:** This event is subject to change based on pandemic conditions. The plan as of Latest Update is to have an online only presentation of awards.
- **A two-day Plein Air Painting Workshop** with juror Kathie Wheeler, September 19-20 is offered at the Grand Marais Art Colony. Cost is \$210. Call (218) 387-2737 or visit <https://grandmaraisartcolony.org/events/the-poetry-of-plein-air/> to register.

### Rules for All Registered Artists (Open Class + Main Competition)

- Plein Air Grand Marais includes two categories of competitive exhibits: Open Class and Main Competition. All registered artists in either category pay a \$45 entry fee.

- **All paintings must be completed on location *en plein air*.** In 2020, paintings may be painted anywhere legal and safe between June 1, 2020 and September 18, 2020.
- **Paintings must be entirely the artist's own original, independent work.** Photos may not be used as a reference at any stage of painting completion. Paintings completed or worked on in Mini-Workshops or otherwise under professional instruction are not eligible for any exhibit or awards.
- **Painting submissions are made via JotForm submission form.** All submissions must include a selfie on location with painting or in-progress photo as plein air verification.
- Artists are encouraged to **share painting-on-location and other photos** during the event with Colleen Cosgrove, OPM's social media director, to grow interest and awareness of our event. Email to: mulberry90@gmail.com.
- In 2020, **no specific painting size limitations** will be enforced considering jurying will occur online. However, artists whose exhibited paintings remain in their possession and are sold through the online gallery will receive a flat fee of \$25 collected from buyers for cost of shipping. Therefore, please keep in mind that large paintings could be more expensive for you to ship.

### Main Competition Rules

- The Competition Exhibit is primarily online this year. Each Competition Artist may submit up to 4 jpeg painting images in the Competition Exhibit. Paintings will be displayed and offered for sale in an online gallery at [pleinairgrandmarais.org](http://pleinairgrandmarais.org), a web site managed by JHP in coordination with OPM and its event page at [outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/plein-air-grand-marais.html](http://outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/plein-air-grand-marais.html). Submissions are made through a Competition Painting Submission Form published on OPM's web site.
- The physical Competition Exhibit at JHP is scaled back this year. For 2020, each Competition Artist in Grand Marais will be assigned a single vertical rod in JHP to display 1 painting, plus Quick Paint if feasible. Up to 3 Reserve paintings may also be turned in for storage at JHP to be hung as paintings sell. Reserve paintings are not eligible for awards.
- A special award category has been added called "Painting in Place" for paintings completed by artists not painting in Grand Marais.
- To be eligible for Night Paint award, nocturnes must be started and completed after sunset. Sunrise and sunset paintings are not considered nocturnes in this event. The idea is to have a category for paintings completed without sunlight.
- Prize amounts in 2020 are subject to change based on available funds. As in previous years, Wet Paint art materials store in St Paul has agreed to work with us and their suppliers for prize contributions of fine art materials.
- The Quick Paint event is held at 3:30-5:00pm in Grand Marais. Register at the picnic table on East Bay starting at 3:00pm. Competition Artists receive a white 3x5 card and an

assigned number to display for jurying. Participation is available only in person, though parts of the event might be livestreamed depending on volunteer availability. It lasts 90 minutes from 3:30–5:00pm on Thursday of Competition Week. Painters may paint on and around Artist Point and around Grand Marais harbor within hearing distance of the start/stop horn. **This year, all judging will be on location at the rocks on East Bay where we traditionally hold an informal viewing and photo-op.** Competition painters will vote for the Open Class winner, and the Competition Juror will vote for the winning paintings in the Competition Class. Competition Quick Paintings (or just prize winners) \*might\* be hung in JHP afterward, depending on available space and volunteers. Bring a frame for your Quick Paint painting just in case.

- **Exhibit Painting Retrieval** from JHP will again be offered by a volunteer retrieval team at the end of the exhibit. Paintings cannot be stored in the gallery after the exhibit. When the exhibit is hung, artists will be asked to sign a Gallery Consignment Agreement and confirm their plans and instructions regarding unsold painting retrieval. Volunteers who help retrieve paintings may stay overnight at Allison Eklund’s family’s cabins on Lake Superior near Sugarloaf Cove in Schroeder, the weekend the exhibit ends. Watch for email communications about painting retrieval arrangements.

### Open Class Rules

- Open Class artists may submit one painting to be juried by vote of Instructors in the Competition Class, with tiebreaker vote of the Competition Class juror. Submissions are made through an Open Class Painting Submission Form published on OPM’s web site. This year we’ll have First, Second, and Third place awards, plus a special prize of fine art supplies donated by suppliers of Wet Paint. The First Place award winner is invited to participate in the Main Competition of 2020 Plein Air Grand Marais as an Invitational Artist.
- Open Class Paintings will remain in artists’ physical possession and be displayed in an online gallery at [pleinairgrandmarais.org](http://pleinairgrandmarais.org), a web site managed by JHP in coordination with OPM and its event page at [outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/plein-air-grand-marais.html](http://outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/plein-air-grand-marais.html). JHP will not handle sales of Open Class paintings, but interested viewers may contact artists at the phone number or email provided in their painting submission form.
- Open Class artists may participate in the Quick Paint on Thursday and compete for the people’s choice Art on the Rocks award. Open Class registration begins at 3:00pm at the picnic table on East Bay. Artists receive a number on a colored 3x5 card on a popsicle stick to tape onto the back of the painting panel or easel facing outward where visitors and artists may vote for it after the event. After the “stop” horn blows, all painters bring their paintings for display and photo-op to the rocks on the shore of East Bay. Volunteers will collect votes: Neil Sherman will select the Open Class winners, and the Competition Juror selects the award winning Competition paintings. The Open Class winner of the “Art on the Rocks” award winner receives a \$50 check and \$50 gift certificate from the sponsor, Joy & Co., a gift shop and art supply store in Grand Marais. The winning painting also may be displayed in JHP.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- ***I am staying home this year. Can I still participate?*** YES. All jurying for the Competition and Open Class is online. In 2020, paintings may be completed anywhere, any time between June 1 and September 18, 2020. They must be 90%+ plein air, painted from direct observation and not from photo(s). They must be the artist's original work and created for Plein Air Grand Marais — i.e., not published elsewhere or submitted to other exhibits or competitions. In lieu of panel-stamping, each painting image submission must be accompanied by a corresponding photo of the artist and/or their painting *in situ*, in the location painted. Have fun with these accompanying photos: some will be displayed to tell the story of our event and, we hope, help sell paintings.
- ***I am coming to Grand Marais but not during Competition Week; can I still hang a painting in JHP?*** Competition artists may hang 1 painting in JHP. Quick Paint paintings might also be hung, depending on conditions at the time. If you paint in Cook County before Competition Week and wish to turn in a painting at JHP, please contact the Gallery Manager, Elizabeth Davis at (715) 791-4946 to arrange a time for drop-off.
- ***Can I sign up for Mini-Workshops if I'm not coming to Grand Marais?*** Most Mini-Workshops will be live-streamed and/or recorded for viewing at home by private YouTube link. Check Mini-Workshop descriptions and registration forms for details, which will be updated after testing in Grand Marais this summer.
- ***Can I cancel or change my Mini-Workshop registration?*** Refunds for cancellations will be allowed less \$5 service charge until 11:59pm on September 1, 2020. Cancellations after September 1, 2020 are non-refundable and may be considered a donation to Outdoor Painters of Minnesota, a nonprofit organization and 501(c)3 charity. Changing workshop registrations is discouraged because instructors receive notice of each registration and a portion of workshop revenue. If you must, cancel your registration and sign up for a different Mini-Workshop no later than the September 1, 2020 deadline. Email requests for cancellations or changes to [events@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org](mailto:events@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org).
- ***Do I have to frame my paintings?*** All Competition paintings exhibited at JHP must be framed for gallery display and properly wired for hanging. Gallery-wrap paintings are acceptable if sides are finished and the painting is securely wired for hanging. Open Class paintings will be displayed online only this year.
  - **Note:** Competition Paintings exhibited and sold online that remain in painters' possession may be offered with or without frame. The painting submission form will ask whether your painting price includes frame and, if so, provide option to submit a photo of the painting in frame in case of inquiries.
- ***What painting images are required?*** All submissions must include one painting image for the online gallery and jurying plus a selfie with painting on location or in-progress photo as *plein air* verification. Smart phone cameras are fine, but images for jurying should be good quality, without distortion, and without visible frame.