



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Banner Year for Plein Air Grand Marais



Outdoor Painters of Minnesota announces 2021 awards in the eighteenth annual Plein Air Grand Marais competition and festival of outdoor painting.

GRAND MARAIS, MN. September 23, 2021

Outdoor Painters of Minnesota reports that enthusiasm for outdoor painting has grown to an all-time high this year, with record membership in the 501c3 nonprofit and 114 registrations for Plein Air Grand Marais, an annual competition and festival of outdoor painting on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The event takes place every year starting the first Friday after Labor day, with a final reception and month-long exhibit at Johnson Heritage Post (JHP) Art Gallery in Grand Marais starting the following Friday.

Plein Air Grand Marais is a joint enterprise of Outdoor Painters of Minnesota, which organizes the event, and JHP Art Gallery operated by the Cook County Historical Society, which mounts the Competition Exhibit. Sponsors include Visit Cook County, a tourism bureau in Grand Marais; Wet Paint, a locally owned art materials and framing store in Saint Paul; Joy & Co., a gift shop offering fine art supplies in Grand Marais; logo, banner and print designs by Kim Gordon and Open Cupboard Designs; custom screen printing and donation from Set Out Screen Printing in Grand Marais; and featured advertising and magazine subscription awards from Streamline Publishing, the publisher of PleinAir Magazine.

Plein Air Grand Marais is unique in that it features daily paint-outs, mini-workshops taught by professional painters in the Competition Class, and social events for painters at every level of experience, from painters new to plein air to advanced amateur and professional artists. The event also celebrates artists in the Arrowhead region with an Invitational class of the Competition. In 2021, participating painters were allowed to paint for the Open Class and Competition exhibits beginning August 1 in the hope that artists would be able to paint at more distant locations in Cook County than time would allow during Competition Week. The result was an astonishing range of painting locations and subject matter, from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness to the Superior Hiking Trail, Lake Superior, and scenes from downtown Grand Marais. A range of painting mediums are represented, from oil and pastel to watermedia including gouache, acrylic and watercolor. The Open Class held a pop-up reception on Wednesday, September 15 at Voyageur Brewing Company, and the final Competition Exhibit reception was held on Friday, September 17 at JHP Art Gallery.

Here are our 2021 awards for Plein Air Grand Marais:

Open Class Juror: Sandi Pillsbury, Castle Danger, Minnesota

Competition Class Juror: David Gilsvik, Two Harbors, Minnesota

Quick Paint

Open Class

Thomas Kutschied | Two \$40 gift certificates plus 10% discount from Joy & Co.

Competition Class

1st Place: Patrick Glander | \$200 + Ugo Sea-to-Summit pochade from Wet Paint

2nd Place: Hannah Heyer | \$150 + Sienna panel holder from Wet Paint

Open Class Exhibit

1st Place

Renee St. Leger | \$150 + Invitation to Competition Class in 2021 Plein Air Grand Marais

2nd Place

Thomas Kutschied | \$100

Competition Class Exhibit

Grand Prize for

Best Body of Work

Krystal Brown | \$1,000 + Invitation to mount solo exhibit at JHP Art Gallery and OutdoorPainter.com Featured Artwork Advertising Award from Streamline Publishing valued at \$825

Five Top Awards for

Paintings of Exceptional

Merit (POEM):	Neil Sherman , <i>The Flowage</i> \$500
	Carl Bretzke , <i>Lights On Upstairs</i> \$500
	Stephen Wysocki , <i>Wheel Barrel on Side</i> \$500
	Brock Larson , <i>Sunset, Devils Track</i> \$500
	Bob Upton , <i>Glistening Harbor</i> \$500
Best Sense of Place	Scott Lloyd Anderson , <i>Shapes and Color, Artists' Point</i> \$250
Beauty of Watermedia	James Turner , <i>Cutface Creek Bike Path</i> \$250
Beauty of Oil	Kelly Schamberger , <i>No Yesterday, No Tomorrow, Present</i> \$250
Beauty of Pastel	Michelle Wegler , <i>Gunflint Overlook</i> \$250
Best Historic Site	David Becker , <i>Historic Fish House</i> \$250 (Selected by Cook County Historical Society)
Honorable Mentions	Each recipient was awarded a one-year subscription to the print edition of PleinAir Magazine.
	1. Christopher Copeland , <i>Still Morning</i>
	2. Cynthia Kath , <i>Vigilance</i>
	3. Bridget Ertelt , <i>Encroaching Shadows on Bogenhoe Wetland</i>
	4. Mary Lynch , <i>Greenwood Lake Boat Launch</i>
	5. Dan Mackerman , <i>Moments Before the Bears Arrived</i>