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Outdoor Painters of Minnesota
1795 Holton St
Falcon Heights, MN 55113
OutdoorPaintersofMinnesota.org

For Further Information or Images contact:
Allison Eklund, Events Director
allison@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org
(651) 592-7858

Artistry and Camaraderie at Plein Air Grand Marais



Outdoor Painters of Minnesota announces 2022 awards in the 19th annual Plein Air Grand Marais competition and festival of outdoor painting.

GRAND MARAIS, MN. September 16, 2022

There was something in the air this year during Plein Air Grand Marais. Maybe it was the whiff of wildfire smoke from Canada contributing to kaleidoscopic sunsets and sunrises. More likely, it was the camaraderie that spread inspiration through the nearly 100 painters in Grand Marais for this year's event, which takes place every year starting the first Friday after Labor Day. Daily mini-workshops, artist socials, and paint-outs kept painters busy during Competition Week, which culminated with an Open Class reception on Wednesday, Quick Paint and hootenanny on Thursday, and final Competition Class reception on Friday. The Competition Exhibit is displayed at Johnson Heritage Post (JHP) Art Gallery in Grand Marais through Sunday, October 9, 2022.

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; and featured advertising and magazine subscription awards from Streamline Publishing, the publisher of PleinAir Magazine.

Plein Air Grand Marais is unique in its emphasis on artists' education and camaraderie. The event features daily paint-outs, social events and mini-workshops taught by professional painters in the Competition Class. Plein Air Grand Marais proudly welcomes painters with a wide range of experience, from those who are new to plein air to dedicated amateur and professional painters. The event also celebrates artists in the Arrowhead region with a North Shore Invitational class of the Competition.

In 2022, painters were allowed to paint beginning August 15 to allow time for participants to paint remote locations in Cook County or set aside time during Competition Week to attend mini-workshops. The result is an exhilarating 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.

2023 Plein Air Grand Marais is scheduled for September 8-15, 2023. The deadline for Competition and Invitational applicants to register is May 1, 2023. Interested artists and collectors should visit OPM's web site for the event at <https://www.outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/plein-air-grand-marais.html> and subscribe to the PAGM newsletter.

Here are our 2022 awards for Plein Air Grand Marais:

Juror: Krystal Brown, Kingwood, Texas

[Open Class Reception on Wednesday, September 14, 2022:](#)

Best in Show	Jeff Steiner \$200 + Two \$50 gift certificates from Joy & Co. + Wet Paint art materials + Plein Air Magazine subscription + Invitation to Competition Class in 2022 Plein Air Grand Marais
Three top awards for Paintings of Exceptional Merit (POEMs)	Lisa Burns \$100 + Wet Paint art materials Joseph Cowan \$100 + Wet Paint art materials Janet Moore \$100 + Wet Paint art materials
Three honorable mentions:	Margie Helstrom Kim Jore Susan Seaborn

[Quick Paint on Thursday, September 15, 2022:](#)

First Place	Richard Abraham \$300 + Plein Air Magazine subscription
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Three POEMs
Carl Bretzke | \$200
Adam Swanson | \$200
James Turner | \$200

Competition Class Reception on Friday, September 16, 2022:

Grand Prize for
Best Body of Work
Brock Larson | \$1,000 + Invitation to mount solo exhibit at JHP Art Gallery + OutdoorPainter.com Featured Artwork Advertising Award from Streamline Publishing valued at \$825

Five Top POEM Awards:
David R. Becker, *Nocturne: Bucks vs Holiday* | \$500
Hannah Heyer, *The After-Party* | \$500
Jo Nelson, *Early Evening on Artists Point* | \$500
Mark Larson, *Two Boat Cottage* | \$500
Erin Renier, *The Wink* | \$500

Best Sense of Place
Carl Bretzke, *Quiet Harbor at Dusk* | \$250

Beauty of Watermedia
David Smith, *Calm Waters* | \$250

Beauty of Oil
Bob Upton, *Cascade Overlook* | \$250

Beauty of Pastel
Laura Martinez-Bianco, *Woodland Sanctuary* | \$250

Best Historic Site
Hannah Heyer, *Night Shift* | \$250
(Selected by Cook County Historical Society)

Artists' Choice
Nelia Harper | \$100 gift card to Wet Paint

Honorable Mentions
Ribbons were awarded for 5 honorable mentions:

1. **Richard Abraham**, *Jane's View*
2. **Nelia Harper**, *Cascade of Light*
3. **Jimmy Navarro**, *Neil's Tree*
4. **David Peacock**, *Morning Sky Over Harbor*
5. **Stephen Wysocki**, *From Afar*