



2023 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 our Competition exhibit host, Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery (JHP). JHP is operated by the Cook County Historical Society (CCHS). Both OPM and CCHS are charitable nonprofits, and all proceeds of Plein Air Grand Marais are used to reinvest in the future of the event and the respective missions of each organization.

[Outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org](https://www.outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org) | [Cookcountyhistory.org](https://www.cookcountyhistory.org)

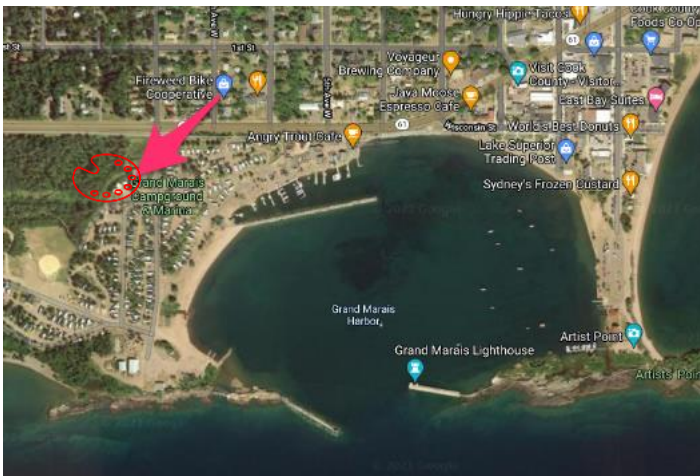
2023 Juror

Our juror this year for both Competition and Open Class is Kansas artist Kim Casebeer.

<https://www.kimcasebeer.com/>

Key Dates / Times / Locations

- Headquarters for all artists' activities is at the **Rec Hall at Grand Marais Municipal Campground**. The Rec Hall is a midnight blue painted building with its own parking lot across the drive from the Campground office building. We'll hang a banner visible from the drive into the Campground from Highway 61.



- **Check-In** for all registered artists: 9am-3pm Friday through Wednesday of Competition Week at the Rec Hall.
- All registered artists may receive a neck wallet, schedule postcards, maps, and may choose from a selection of magazines and art supplies and promotional items from our sponsors.
- **A Silent Auction** of donated art materials and equipment will be set up in the Rec Hall and closes at 3:00pm on Tuesday before the Artist Social.
- **Daily Paint-Outs** will be scheduled, where all registered painters may paint together and the public is invited to watch for them.
- **Artist Social** gatherings will be scheduled, where all registered painters are invited.
- Artists register online for **Mini-Workshops** scheduled Saturday through Wednesday of Competition Week. Each Mini-Workshop lasts about 3 hours and costs \$50. Visit <https://www.outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/pagm-mini-workshops.html>
- ***In Situ* Photos:** Painters' painting surfaces are not stamped for this event. Instead, exhibiting Artists are required to submit an *in situ* photo of each substantially finished painting on location where painted, in Cook County. Examples:



Have fun with this! The best *in situ* photos will be printed and displayed on log-ends in JHP Gallery.

A link to the Painting Submission Form will be sent to all registered artists and published on our web site when painting opens on August 14, 2023. Your painting images with label info are then easily submitted from your mobile device. **The deadline to submit Competition painting labels is 7:00pm on Thursday night** after the Quick Paint to allow sufficient time to print painting labels before the final reception on Friday.

- **Open Class Reception & Exhibit:** 5-7pm, Wednesday at Harbor Park across from Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery in Grand Marais. Paintings (framed or unframed at the artists' option) will be displayed on tabletop easels (the artist's or OPM's).
- **Competition Exhibit Preview,** 11:00am – 12:00pm, Thursday at Harbor Park across from JHP. Competition Artists may display and sell paintings off-easel. All sales must go through JHP and are subject to 30% gallery commission.

- **Birney Quick Paint**, open to all registered artists, 3:30–5:00pm, Thursday at Artists Point. Check in at the East Bay picnic table starting at 2:45pm to receive a number to display for judging afterward on the rocks. First place receives the Birney Quick Award, with additional “Art on the Rocks” awards for paintings of exceptional merit.
- **Hootenanny**, 7–10pm, Thursday at the harbor picnic shelter/pavilion at Grand Marais Municipal Campground. Bring an instrument or sing along to join our ad-hoc band “The Plain Errors.” In case of rain, we might end up inside at the Rec Hall.
- **Competition Paintings**, framed and securely wired, may be brought to JHP during open hours (10am-4pm) during Competition Week. Paintings must be ready to hang by 11:00am on Friday. **Painting submission forms with painting label information and photos MUST be submitted electronically no later than Thursday at 7:00pm.** Wi-Fi is available at JHP and at the Cook County Whole Foods Co-Op.
- **Final Reception and Awards:** Doors open for VIP sponsors and registered artists starting at 4pm. VIP tickets are offered to sponsors and donors who contribute \$20 or more to either CCHS or OPM to support the event. The Awards Reception is open to the public starting at 5:00pm. Awards will be announced and livestreamed on OPM’s Facebook page starting at 6:00pm.
- **“Atmosphere is Everything:” A Plein Air Painting Workshop with juror Kim Casebeer** is offered Saturday, September 23, 2023 in 3-hour morning and afternoon sessions with individualized instruction and critiques. Anyone may register for either or both sessions. The cost is \$100 per session. Registration in advance is encouraged to secure your spot by using the link on our web page:

<https://www.outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/pagm-juror-workshop.html>

Exhibit Rules for All Registered Artists (Open Class + Competition)

- Plein Air Grand Marais includes two categories of competitive exhibits: Open Class and Competition. All registered artists in either category pay a nonrefundable \$45 entry fee.
- **All exhibited paintings must be completed on location *en plein air*** in Cook County, Minnesota from August 14, 2023 to September 22, 2023.
- **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 are not eligible for any exhibit or awards.
- **Commission on all painting sales is 30%** for paintings created for PAGM or during Competition Week, including off-the-easel and Open Class sales. Competition painting sales are handled by JHP. Open Class sales are handled by OPM at the Open Class reception and otherwise by the artist, who is responsible for making a donation to OPM for 30% of the painting’s purchase price. Artists who do not follow protocol may be barred in the future from PAGM.

- *Off-the-Easel Sales by Competition Artists:* Give your buyer your name, painting title and price for presentation to the cashier at JHP during open hours (10-4). Postcards with exhibit information and space to write painting or contact info are provided to participating artists to offer visitors and painting buyers.
- *Sales by Open Class Artists:* You may handle the sale yourself, and then make a donation of 30% of purchase price to OPM using the Donate Now button on our web site or by giving cash or check to organizer Allison Eklund, a co-treasurer of OPM.

Competition Class Rules

- Each Competition Artist may submit **4 paintings in the Competition Exhibit** at JHP and up to 2 paintings in reserve, to be hung for sale as Competition paintings are sold.
- The Competition Juror may give only **one award per artist**.
- To be eligible for the **Historical Place Award**, paintings must feature one of Historic Cook County's five sites: The Lighthouse Keepers House and History Museum, Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery, the 1930's Fishhouse Replica and tug boat Nee-Gee, Bally's Blacksmith Shop, or the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Only this prize, awarded by Historic Cook County, and the Artists' Choice prize awarded by registered artists at the final reception, can be combined with Competition Juror prizes.
- Due to limited exhibit space, **Competition paintings must not be larger than 16x20 not including frame, no wider than 28" framed, and no taller than 24" framed**. Please do not submit more than two maximum-sized paintings: due to variable wall space and lengths of hanging rods, adequate space for large paintings cannot be assured. Standard sizes from 9x12 to 14x18 are ideal for this event.
- Each Competition Artist will be assigned a single vertical rod in JHP to display 4 paintings in the Competition Exhibit. Two additional reserve paintings may be submitted, which are not eligible for prizes but may be displayed for sale as space becomes available.
- To be eligible for **Night Paint award**, nocturnes must be painted on location *after* sunset. We traditionally have a nocturnal paint-out during Competition Week, but nocturnes may be completed any time during the painting period, August 14 to September 22.
- Competition paintings must be submitted electronically **NO LATER THAN 7:00PM ON THURSDAY**. A mobile-friendly submission form prompts you for artist and painting information, a photo of each painting for the online gallery, and an in-situ photo for each painting. Submit the form for each painting. In-situ photos are required in lieu of panel stamping and may be displayed in the gallery and on OPM's web site. Artists are encouraged to help each other in case of technical difficulty. If you can't use the submission form for any reason, required painting images (*in situ* and painting photos) may be emailed to *both* the organizer and gallery manager at: events@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org and johnsonheritagepostgallery@gmail.com.

- The Quick Paint lasts 90 minutes from 3:30–5:00pm on Thursday of Competition Week. Painters may paint on and around Artists’ Point. Paintings are displayed immediately afterward on the rocks at East Bay. The juror will select the winners and award prizes at 5:30pm. In case of rain, we’ll have jurying and awards in the Rec Hall with paintings displayed on tabletop easels.
- **The Competition Exhibit** is displayed from September 22 to October 15, 2023. All Competition Artists must inform JHP of painting retrieval plans when the exhibit ends: paintings can be picked up in person, shipped to the artist, or retrieved by a caravan of volunteers. **All paintings must leave the gallery on Sunday at 4pm on October 15 or by pickup or shipping on Monday, October 16.** Volunteers who help transport paintings back to pickup locations are invited to stay at Sugarloaf Cabins in Schroeder (exact dates to be determined). Contact Allison Eklund, Events Director for details.

Open Class Rules

- Open Class artists may submit one painting to be juried at a pop-up exhibit and reception at Harbor Park on Wednesday, September 20 from 5–7pm. The Rec Hall building at Grand Marais Campground used as Artist Headquarters can be used in case of rain. Bring your painting, framed or otherwise display-ready between 4:30-5:00pm for placement on a **tabletop easel** provided by OPM (or your own) to be placed on the picnic tables or concrete benches. The Best in Show award winner of the Open Class is invited to participate in the Competition Class the following year as an Invitational Artist.
- Paintings may be offered for sale at the Open Class exhibit. Sales may be handled using OPM’s credit card point-of-sale or by the artist. 30% of the purchase price is payable to OPM. All painting sales during the reception or in Grand Marais during the event are subject to commission.
- The Open Class exhibit is a pop-up show: Artists take unsold paintings home with them at the end of the reception.
- Open Class artists may participate in the Quick Paint on Thursday. The Quick Paint is a timed, 90-minute event with a horn announcing when to start and stop. All registered painters sign up for the Quick Paint at the East Bay picnic table near the paved parking lot at Artist Point. Participating artists receive a number on a 3x5 card on a popsicle stick to tape onto the back of the painting panel or easel facing outward so the juror can identify it. After the “stop” horn blows, all painters bring their paintings for display, jurying and awards, and photo-op to the rocks on the shore of East Bay.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***I am arriving late or leaving early; can I still participate?*** If you have paid your registration fee, you may participate in your category of the event subject to deadlines and requirements for turning in paintings. The deadline to turn in Open Class paintings is 4-5pm at the reception on Wednesday, and the deadline to turn in Competition paintings is 7pm on Thursday for online submission forms and 8-11am on Friday for the actual

paintings to be displayed at Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery. If you cannot participate in your exhibit, please let us know so we can avoid extra work creating name tags and labels. If you're a Competition painter and can't come after all, please let us know as soon as possible because we might have a waiting list. Email allison@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org with questions or to report a change in your registration or participation.

- ***Can I change my Mini-Workshop registration?*** Registrations may be changed by canceling a registration and registering for a different one, before the cancellation deadline one week before Competition Week begins. Contact allison@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org about any change in workshop registration. Please note that PayPal refunds are subject to a small transaction fee.
- ***Do I have to frame my paintings?*** All Competition paintings exhibited must be finished for gallery display and securely wired for hanging. Gallery-wrap paintings are acceptable if sides are finished and the painting is securely wired for hanging. Open Class paintings need not be framed and will be displayed on tabletop easels, but Artists wishing to offer their painting for sale should consider framing or wiring their painting in case it is sold.
- ***How are Competition Paintings displayed?*** Each Competition artist is assigned a hanging rod in JHP that fits 4 paintings hung vertically using hanging wire securely fastened to each painting by the artist. Artists are arranged alphabetically by last name, starting at a different location in the gallery each year. Artists are not allowed to hang their own paintings, but at drop-off time must leave them against the wall at their rod where gallery staff will hang them. Please do not touch or move any paintings hanging in JHP.
- ***How to I retrieve my unsold Competition paintings after the exhibit?*** Competition artists must inform JHP Gallery of their plans for painting retrieval by filling out a form when the exhibit is hung on Friday of Competition Week. For artists in Minnesota, OPM coordinates a painting retrieval trip in October to pick up paintings and bring them back for private pickup arrangements. Usually those pickup locations are in Duluth, western Wisconsin, Twin Cities Metro, southeastern Minnesota, and St. Cloud or central Minnesota. For artists living farther away, shipping arrangements can be made through JHP Gallery.



Grand Marais

2023

Award Categories and Prizes

PAGM prizes are subject to change and may include cash and/or fine art materials contributed by our sponsors.

Quick Paint

First Place \$250 – Birney Quick Award

Exceptional Merit – \$150 (number of awards depends on available funds)

Sponsored by Joy & Co.

Open Class Exhibit

First Place \$250

Exceptional Merit – \$150 (number of awards depends on available funds)

Sponsored by Wet Paint

Competition Class Exhibit

Grand Prize for Best Body of Work: \$1,000 and a future exhibit offer at JHP

Paintings of Exceptional Merit (POEM): \$500 (5 awards including Night Paint)

Best Sense of Place: \$250

Beauty of Oil: \$250

Beauty of Watermedia: \$250

Beauty of Pastel: \$250

Historic Site in Cook County: \$250 awarded and selected by CCHS

Artists' Choice: \$250 awarded by registered artists at the final reception

Honorable Mentions: Juror's discretion