



2024 Artist Guide & Rules

Competition Applicant **Deadline: May 1, 2024**

Painting Begins: August 11, 2024

Competition Week: September 6-14, 2024

Competition Exhibit: September 13 – October 6, 2024

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)

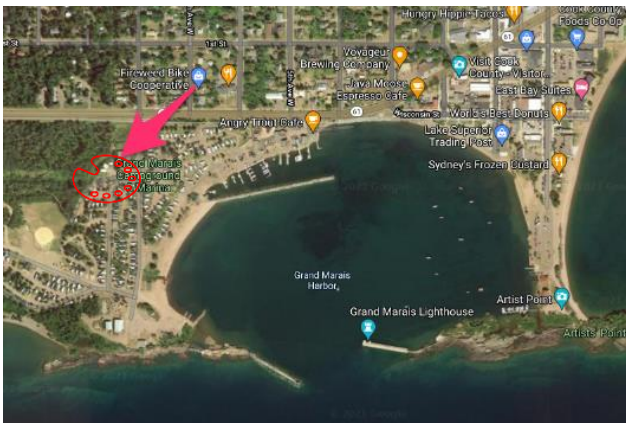
2024 Juror

Our juror this year for both Competition and Open Class is Duluth artist Brock Larson.

<https://www.brocklarson.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.



- The Competition Exhibit and Friday night final awards reception are held at Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery (JHP), 115 W. Wisconsin St., Grand Marais, MN.
- **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, 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 daily. All registered painters and their guests are invited.
- Artists register online for 3-hour **Workshops** scheduled Saturday through Wednesday of Competition Week. Each Workshop lasts about 3 hours and costs \$50. Visit <https://www.outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org/pagm-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:



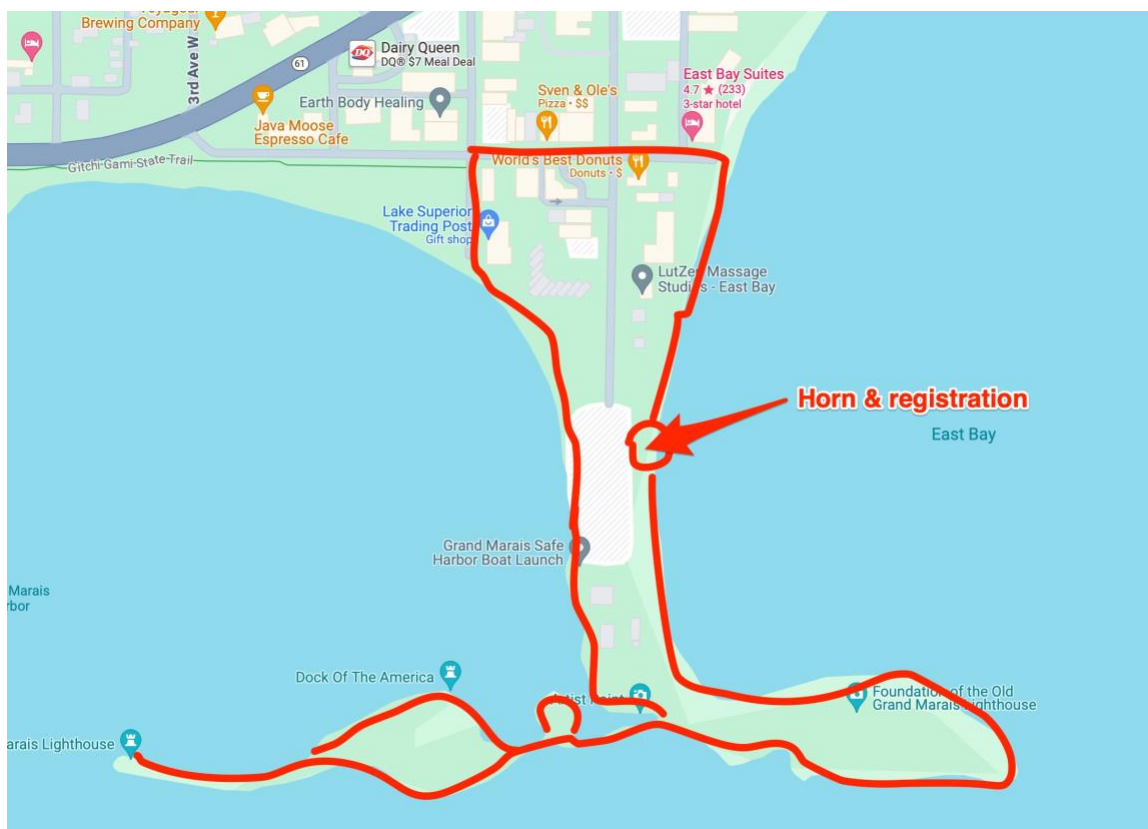
Have fun with this! The best *in situ* photos will be printed and displayed on log-ends in JHP Gallery.

A link to the Painting Submission Form will be sent to all registered artists and published on our web site when the eligible painting period opens in August. 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**, a 90-minute timed competition, is 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.

The painting area for the Birney Quick Paint is limited so that artists can hear the start and stop horn and have time to register, get a number at East Bay, walk to their location and set up, and return in time for jurying on the rocks at East Bay. Painters may set up their easel east of Harbor Park and south of East Bay Suites:



- **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.
- **“The Fearless Fix:” A Plein Air Painting Workshop with juror Brock Larson** is offered on the final Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 9:00am to 2:00pm with individualized instruction and critiques. Lunch and beverages are included. Anyone may register for the juror workshop. The cost is \$100 per person. 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 11 to September 13, 2024.
- **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 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 is expected to submit **4 paintings in the Competition Exhibit** at JHP and may also submit up to 2 more paintings in reserve, to be hung for sale as Competition paintings are sold.
- The Competition Juror may give only **one award per artist** in the Competition Exhibit. The Open Class and Quick Paint are juried as separate events. The painting that wins the Historic Place award is selected by the Cook County Historical Society, and the body of work that wins the Artists' Choice award is selected by vote of the artists attending the final reception Friday night.
- 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.
- Due to limited gallery 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 11 to September 13.
- 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 13 to October 6, 2024. 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 6 or by pickup or shipping on Monday, October 7.** 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 of Competition Week from 5–6pm. 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 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 framed or 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 may choose to frame paintings for improved presentation or potential sale.
- ***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 do 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

2024

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

First Place \$250
Exceptional Merit – \$150 (number of awards depends on available funds)
Sponsored by Wet Paint

Competition Class

Grand Prize for Best Body of Work: \$1,000 and a future exhibit offer at JHP
Paintings of Exceptional Merit (POEM): \$500 (6 awards including Night Paint and Cynthia S. Kath Award for Exceptional Color & Light)
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 selected by registered artists at the final reception
Honorable Mentions: Juror's discretion (cash award depending on available funds)