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**Painting in Warm Autumn at Plein Air Grand Marais**

**Outdoor Painters of Minnesota announces 2024 awards at  
Plein Air Grand Marais competition and festival of outdoor painting.**

GRAND MARAIS, MN. September 18, 2024

Fall color began to arrive with warm breezes and perfect outdoor painting conditions during 2024 Plein Air Grand Marais. Almost 100 painters spent 8 days in early September enjoying daily paint-outs, workshops, and artist socials while competing for prizes awarded by this year’s juror, Brock Larson.

Plein Air Grand Marais is a joint enterprise of Outdoor Painters of Minnesota and the Cook County Historical Society, which mounts the Competition Exhibit in the Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery.

Plein Air Grand Marais is unique in its emphasis on artists’ education and camaraderie. The event is organized by participating artists and proudly attracts nationally recognized talent while welcoming painters of all experience levels. The event also celebrates artists in the Arrowhead region with a North Shore Invitational class of the Competition.

The Competition Exhibit features 60 artists who each display 4 paintings eligible for awards totaling \$7,000. This year’s paintings include scenes from paint-outs organized in wilderness locations throughout Cook County, including YMCA Camp Menogyn at an entry to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness accessible only by boat ride across Bearskin Lake. The Competition Exhibit at Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery is displayed through the first Sunday in October.

2025 Plein Air Grand Marais is scheduled for September 5-13, 2025. Registration will open February 1, and the deadline for Competition Class registration is May 1, 2025. 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 for announcements and updates.

## Here are our 2024 awards for Plein Air Grand Marais:

**Juror:** Brock Larson, South Range, Wisconsin

### [Open Class Reception on Wednesday, September 11, 2024:](#)

Best in Show: **Angela Velin** | *Temperance* | Oil

Three top awards for  
Paintings of Exceptional  
Merit (POEMs): **Tim Sullivan** | *Poplar River* | Oil  
**Jean Larson** | *Superior Glass* | Watercolor  
**Stephen Herzog** | *The Hjordis – Magna Charter* | Oil

Three honorable mentions: **Kelly Frankenberg** | *Wave after Wave* | Acrylic  
**Mary Klein** | *Gitchee Gume* | Oil  
**Elizabeth Lexau** | *Along the Way to the Lighthouse* | Pastel

### [Birney Quick Paint on Thursday, September 12, 2024:](#)

Grand Prize: **Gary Olson** | Oil

Three POEMs: **Kelly Chamberger** | Oil  
**Jimmy Navarro** | Oil  
**MaryAnn Cleary** | Oil

### [Competition Class Reception on Friday, September 13, 2024:](#)

Grand Prize for  
Best Body of Work: **Neil Sherman** | Oil

Artists' Choice Award for  
Best Body of Work: **Hannah C. Heyer** | Oil

Six Top POEM Awards:

**Hannah C. Heyer**, Cynthia S. Kath Award for Exceptional  
Color & Light: *Waxing Poetic* | Oil

**David R. Becker**, Nocturne: *Hjordis Evening Cruise* |  
Watercolor and Gouache

**Bob Upton**, *Transparent Harbor* | Oil

**Jack Dant**, *Evening Departure* | Oil

**Carl Bretzke**, *Mark on the Rocks with a Twist* | Oil

**Kelly Chamberger**, *Unabandon* | Oil

### [Special Categories:](#)

Best Sense of Place: **Deann Kroll**, *Canoe Workshop, Grand Portage* | Oil  
Beauty of Watermedia: **Gary Olson**, *Cotton Grass* | Gouache  
Beauty of Oil: **Michele Combs**, *Hollow Rock* | Oil  
Beauty of Pastel **Lisa Stauffer**, *Storm Over Superior* | Pastel  
Best Historic Site **David R. Becker**, *Looking Into the Window of B.Bally's* |  
Watercolor and Gouache

Honorable Mentions

1. **Kurt Schulzetenburg**, *Fractal* | Oil
2. **Stephen Wysocki**, *Island of Gods* | Oil
3. **Michelle Wegler**, *Sea or Sky* | Pastel
4. **Abbey Fitzgerald**, *Splash and Sparkle* | Oil
5. **Nelia Harper**, *Turbulence* | Oil