

2025 Winter Plein Air at Menogyn

February 23-28, 2025

YMCA Camp Menogyn, 55 Menogyn Trail, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Reception at Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery (JHP)

February 28, 2025: 5:00-7:00pm

115 Wisconsin St. W, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Exhibit Dates: February 28 – March 23, 2025

Information & Packing List

Key Places & Times:

Sunday, February 23

Arrive in Grand Marais to meet up before driving to Menogyn. If you have paintings to display from previous Winter Plein Air retreats, drop them off at JHP during open hours, 10am-4pm.

- Between 3:00-4:00pm, meet at Cook County Whole Foods Co-Op. We will call camp at 4pm and caravan together up the Gunflint Trail to the parking lot for Menogyn. Staff will meet us with snowmobile & sled to haul our gear and give a lift to anyone who needs it. We walk across the lake to the dining hall for orientation and cabin/room selection before dinner at 6p.

- Friday, February 28** – 10:00am departure: send gear by snowmobile sled and walk back to parking lot, arrive in Grand Marais around 12:00pm

- Friday afternoon:** 12:00-3:00pm frame paintings & hang exhibit at JHP. Check in at local lodging, if you have a reservation (a good idea for anyone with a long drive home).

- Public Reception**
5:00pm to 7:00pm at JHP

- Painting Pickup Weekend: March 20-23, 2025**

You may volunteer to come back up north and stay a few nights at Sugarloaf Family Cabins in Schroeder to paint, enjoy the North Shore, and help retrieve unsold paintings. Volunteers transport paintings back home and arrange a time for artists who live near them to pick them up. It's always a fun return trip spending time with old and new friends.

Phone Numbers:

- Allison Eklund: (651) 592-7858 (cell phone)
 Johnson Heritage Post Art Gallery:
(218) 387-2314 -Aliya Marxen, Manager; Lois Clay, staff member
 YMCA Camp Menogyn:
(218) 388-4497 landline

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

- We had “wild ice” last year, meaning no snow cover on the lake. It was beautiful but extra slippery and dangerous. Everybody needs to wear ice cleats! Not just on the ice but anywhere outside. Suggestions: **Ice Bugs** are high quality boots made in

Sweden that have carbide steel studs built in the soles. **YakTrax** come in a variety of styles for snow and ice conditions. Diamond grip are excellent. If we have deep snow, then boot chains or crampons or snowshoes can be used to walk around camp. There are steep hills so traction is necessary. Plan ahead and pack accordingly.

- There is no cell phone service or internet at Menogyn. Cellular service disappears about 15 minutes up the Gunflint Trail from Grand Marais. We sleep in bunk rooms with up to 6 people. Pretend you're 12 years old again and going to camp.
- YMCA Camp Menogyn's dining hall and cabins are located ½ mile across west Bearskin Lake from the parking lot.
- If you arrive separately, you must haul your own gear in a sled or make arrangements for pick-up by calling the camp staff at (218) 388-4497 before leaving Grand Marais. There is a land line at the parking lot to call staff at the dining hall.
- Menogyn has **group cabins** with common area and bunkrooms that will accommodate all or most of us. The camp is not handicap accessible, but reasonable accommodation can probably be made if some people require a bunk room on the same level as indoor toilets in the dining hall. Bunk rooms next to the indoor toilets may be reserved for persons with special needs. Talk to the organizer about any mobility or health concerns so we can ask the camp director. (Allison Eklund, allison@outdoorpaintersofminnesota.org)
- We must **haul out everything we haul in, including garbage**. Also, don't bring or leave in your vehicle any glass bottles or carbonated drinks that might freeze and explode.
- It might be cold outside, but it's warm in the dining hall and cabins. **There is electricity inside the cabins but no running water.**
- The dining hall has two indoor toilets in bathrooms with plumbing. Cabins have close access to outdoor pit toilets. Use of the pit toilets is encouraged.
- Three meals a day are scheduled family-style in the Dining Hall. Otherwise, our time is generally unstructured. We paint outside in the morning and afternoon, and sometimes at night. We paint and nap in the dining hall too. We have taken all-day painting expeditions with sack lunches. We also painted during the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon at one of their rest stops at Trail Center.
- Dog-sledding is an optional activity that is usually scheduled for one afternoon or morning. A fee is charged by Menogyn to help feed the dogs and support the program.
- Snowshoes and skis are available for use. You can also bring your own.
- Thursday night is Sauna Night! Don't miss the Finnish dry sauna and frozen lake plunge. **Bring a swimsuit and old wool socks** so your feet don't stick to the ice.
- We leave camp Friday after breakfast and drive back to Grand Marais. Friday night from 5:00pm to 7:00pm is our reception and exhibit at Johnson Heritage Post in Grand Marais. **Consider booking an overnight Friday in Grand Marais before driving home Saturday.**

Packing List

Winter Plein Air Painting

- **YakTrax Diamond Grip or similar to wear over boots. **Everyone needs to wear these outside at all times.** Ice is slippery and especially dangerous if you don't see it or take a wrong step.
- Plastic sled for daily painting outings (Menogyn has some but nice if you have one to fit your equipment)
- Plein air umbrella or sunlight diffuser
- Sunglasses
- Paint box/pochade/art materials
- Paper towels/rags/garbage bags
- Extra screws, nuts, etc. for paint box repairs
- Duct tape
- Frames for 4-7 paintings in exhibit
- Camera or phone to take *in situ* painting photos and other memories for display in JHP

Sleeping:

- Sleeping bag or bedroll and fitted twin sheet for bunkbeds.
- Thermarest if you like extra cushion
- Pillow(s)

- CPAP if you use one
- Earplugs in case of snoring
- Lightweight pajamas: cabins are warm

Lodge and Sauna:

- Slippers or house shoes
- Bath towel (for sauna night), hand towel, & washcloth
- Swim suit
- Old pair of thick wool socks to wear in sauna and lake plunge

Outdoor Gear

- Glove liners and over-mitts
- Wool socks
- Balaclava or neck gator
- Sunglasses (snow-blindness is an issue on sunny days)
- Warm boots & snow pants
- Hand- and foot-warmer packets
- Dress in layers** that insulate even when wet, like down and wool

Just for fun:

- Musical instruments (guitar, ukulele, mandolin, etc), piano music, songbooks/lyrics
- Art magazines & art books