



NORTH CAROLINA PLEIN AIR ART FESTIVAL 2025

Artist Prospectus

Thirty-seven artists will join forces in New Bern, NC for a weeklong painting competition with juried awards and sales opportunities, culminating in a Collector's Sale and Exhibition, and a Quick Paint where the public and the featured artists paint together.

Why Should I Sign Up?

Besides the chance to win the \$4000 Koffenberger - Best of Show Award along with many more awards, cash and merchandise prizes, North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival will provide any artist interested in plein air painting an abundance of opportunities to further their career. Artists will paint a variety of beautiful locations in Craven, Carteret, and Pamlico counties with ample opportunity for sales and exhibition while enjoying their stay with our hosting partners. The event also provides opportunity to network and socialize with collectors and artists from all regions of the USA. Along with workshops and public demonstrations, our goal is to stage a fun, relaxing, artist centric event, from start to finish. We look forward to having some of you participate as featured artist, but we welcome you for the week in any capacity.

If chosen as a featured artist, your attendance in one of the pre-event video chat orientations will be required.

What Should I Expect during the event? A more detailed agenda will be sent closer to the event.

- **MAY 11 4:00 – 5:30 PM**, Stamping followed by dinner for artists, volunteers, and hosts. Display panels hung with library paintings **4:30 PM - EVENT ORIENTATION Obligatory for all featured artists**
- **May 11 6:30 PM** -North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival Competition begins. Open boundaries within Craven, Pamlico, and Carteret Counties.
- **May 12 All artists in New Bern. Meet and greet with donors and collectors. Obligatory for all featured artists. Time TBA**
- **May 12-18**-Exhibition /Sales Gallery open to the public daily 9 AM-7 PM. Fresh paintings may be delivered throughout the day. Last look May 18, 9 AM-noon.

- **BEAUFORT PAINT-OUT - Obligatory for all featured artists to paint at venue on their assigned date.** Pop-up gallery and sale. Each venue will host one half of the roster for two days. The remaining half of the roster will be present in Craven County on these days.
- **May 17 — 3:00 PM Deadline** for delivery of competition paintings (framed and wired).
- **May 17--- 6-8 PM -Awards Celebration - Obligatory for all featured artists.** Ticketed affair, judging and awards
- **May 18 Quick Paint- Public & Featured Artists paint for Ribbons and cash awards. Obligatory for all featured artists**
- **May 18—2 PM** close of Gallery Exhibition artwork may be taken down. Artist checkout is required.

Other Important Dates:

11:59pm, January 10, 2025: Artist Submissions Close

11:59pm, January 20, 2025: Artist Notifications

NOTE: Daily activities will include Lunch & Lectures, youth activities, artists to artists panels, scheduled demonstrations. Jurors Phil Starke and Shanna Kunz will be conducting workshops before and during the event.

Terms and Conditions

All artists accepted into the competition agree to the following:

- 1) To be present and to paint works within specified areas for the competition May 11 -18, 2025.
- 2) Artists are required to bring sufficient framed work to begin the week with a full display. The display dimensions are 40" W 80" H.
- 3) To make their painting location available to the public for a minimum of 3 hours per day by reporting GPS coordinates to organizers or logging into En Plein Air Artists Locator app.
- 4) Two fresh pieces shall be turned into the Gallery for Sale by Wednesday May 14. Sold paintings at venues will meet this requirement.
- 5) The Artist shall complete and turn in at least three works by 3:00 pm May 17, 2025, to be hung and displayed for the Collector's Preview Party (Vernissage) and judging.
- 6) Artists agree that all works shall:
 - a. Not exceed 40" in any dimension
 - b. Be of a 2D medium
 - c. Be completed *en plein air* without the assistance of photography
 - d. All works must be framed and wired for hanging
- 7) To attend the New Bern Artist Orientation & Host dinner, Sunday May 11 2025, 4-6:30 pm.
- 8) To attend the Awards Reception, May 17, 2025, 6-8PM
- 9) To participate in the Quick Paint on May 18, 2025, at the publicized time and place.

- 10) The Artist shall agree to price all works commensurate with their normal gallery price and structure. North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival Organization shall retain a 40% consignment rate on all works sold. Sales tax, credit card, and other fees shall be handled by the North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival organization, (Plein Air New Bern Inc (501c3)).
- 11) Commissions resulting from participation in NC Plein Air must be brokered by the Sales Team of Plein Air New Bern and meet the guidelines put forth in the artist agreement.
- 12) All sales will be handled through NC Plein Air Staff, side transactions are forbidden and could result in expulsion from the event and competition.
- 13) Artists shall remove all unsold inventory from the exhibition gallery between 2 PM May 18, 2025.
- 14) Artist agrees to give the exclusive rights to the sale of all work created or exhibited at North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival Events for the period May 11 -June 11, 2025, to NC Plein Air Organization (Plein Air New Bern Inc).
- 15) Artist shall retain all copyright to works sent for marketing and created as part of the North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival - Plein Air New Bern Inc event. However, the artist shall grant North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival - Plein Air New Bern, Inc organizers the right to use images of such works for business and other promotional purposes, those submitted for inventory and those created for the purpose of participating in North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival – (Plein Air New Bern Inc. 501(c)3) on or between May 11-18, 2025.

Things to Consider:

- 1) Artists may paint scenes from the three-county area before the competition begins in order to build inventory, meet collectors, and familiarize themselves with the area. Paintings completed before the competition will not be eligible for awards but can be displayed and sold in the gallery as part of the library inventory.
- 2) Each artist will be allowed to display and sell up to two paintings during the week that are marked at time of sale “Reserved for competition”. Artists may remove these reservations and place on a different painting by notifying the sales team and inventory control committee. Collectors will be advised at time of sale, there is no guarantee their painting will be in the final competition. The final decision of competition paintings will be made by artist on May 17 before 3 PM.
- 3) Artists will be contacted before the event to inquire if they would like to take advantage of free host family housing during the event. Host Family housing is a great way to reduce travel costs and engage the community during the event. Depending on Covid protocol, fully vaccinated artists may have priority of placement.

WHAT TO PAINT???? Oh My!! You are in for a treat!!

NEW BERN, North Carolina

The historic city of New Bern, the first colonial capital of North Carolina, has become a prime destination for retirees, families, and tourists alike. New Bern's rich history and beautiful geographic setting create a cultural environment that has attracted an active art community supported by an enthusiastic group of collectors and donors.

With a city motto of "Everything Comes Together Here," New Bern offers a variety of charming locations for plein air painters of all types. Situated at the junction of two rivers, the downtown area offers waterfront and dockside views, beautiful parks, and storefronts in a variety of styles from the past three centuries. Just down the street from the historic downtown area sits Tryon Palace, a studied recreation of the Governors' mansion from 1767 complete with sixteen acres of gardens. Surrounding the core of the downtown are three recognized historic homes districts, boasting a range of architectural movements and construction from Colonial to Craftsman to a select few Mid-Century Moderns. The surrounding area is also home to the waterfront centers of Oriental and Beaufort, the New Bern Battlefield Park, and the Croatan National Forest.

<https://visitnewbern.com/>

ORIENTAL, North Carolina

Oriental is North Carolina's Sailing Capital. Local sailing clubs hold races throughout the year. Other sailors prefer cruising, using Oriental as a convenient base for sailing trips to nearby towns such as Beaufort or Ocracoke. Some have sailed out of Oriental around the world and back, and some just cruise to a nearby creek, drop anchor and spend a quiet evening under the stars.

Home of the "big boys", the commercial fishing boats, an artists' dream for painting! Oriental has a well-established art community, colorful history and citizens. You will love it.

<https://townoforiental.com/>

BEAUFORT, North Carolina

A new addition to Plein Air New Bern, Beaufort is at its heart, a nautical town. Filled with maritime stores, restaurants featuring fresh seafood, and hundreds of docks bordering the waterfront. Established in 1713 and incorporated in 1723, Beaufort is the fourth oldest town in North Carolina and known as one of the most beautiful towns in North Carolina.

Beaufort is located in North Carolina's "[Inner Banks](#)" region. The town is home to the [North Carolina Maritime Museum](#), the [Duke University](#) Marine Laboratory ([Nicholas School of the Environment](#)), and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research. It is also the location of the Rachel Carson Reserve, part of the N.C. Coastal Reserve and [National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) system.^[11]

<https://beauforthistoricsite.org/>