



National Award-Winning Artists Capture Beauty of South Florida at the 6th Annual Plein Air Festival

TEQUESTA (January 4, 2019) Gorgeous scenery and memorable locations make up the outdoor painting contest that is the Lighthouse ArtCenter's 6th Annual Plein Air Festival. Nationally-known, award-winning artists from around the country will paint throughout Palm Beach and Martin County, depicting scenes from the beaches and natural Florida landscapes, to the quickly disappearing old Florida homes and residential areas. Known as "Paint-Outs," the artists will be visiting a variety of outdoor areas to paint the varied landscapes and cityscapes that make up Palm Beach and Martin counties.

The event kicks off on Saturday, March 9 from 1 to 3 pm, with a **Kids' Paint Out** event at Constitution Park in Tequesta. Children should register in advance online, at the Lighthouse ArtCenter School of Art, spaces are limited. They will be able to sign up for 1-2pm or 2-3pm. Painting supplies will be provided and the kids, ages 5-12, will receive certificates, and will walk away with their own plein air painting.

The **Quick Draw Painting Contest** is open to all artists, and will take place at Flagler Park in Stuart on Sunday, March 10, 2019 from 9 to 11 am. The art will be judged, awards will be given at 12 noon and the wet paintings will be available for purchase from noon to 2 pm on location, and throughout the week at the Lighthouse ArtCenter gallery.

From Monday through Saturday, the public is invited to watch the artists and purchase paintings at the Paint-Out locations from Stuart to Palm Beach. With over 120 artists from around the country entering the jurying process, the thirty five artists who are selected represent the best of the Plein Air genre. They will be competing for \$18,000 in cash and prizes.

Plein Air Demos are open to the public. Bring a chair so you can listen and watch the artist paint.

1. Monday, March 11: Jeff Markowsky, Riverbend Park, Jupiter; 4 to 6 pm
2. Tuesday, March 12: Jane Hunt, Coral Cove Park, Tequesta; 10 am to 12 noon
3. Wednesday, March 13: Craig Reynolds, Port Salerno Marina; 4 to 6 pm
4. Thursday, March 14: Michele Byrne, Sailfish Marina, Riviera Beach; 4 to 6 pm

The artists will deliver their paintings each day to the Lighthouse ArtCenter Gallery for viewing by the general public. The awards ceremony will be on Friday, March 11 at 4:30 pm at the Lighthouse ArtCenter. The paintings will be judged by Nancy Tankersley, last year's Grand Prize winner and internationally acclaimed plein air painter. The art will then be available for sale at the **VIP Collectors Party** from 5-9 pm that night at the Gallery. The Gallery will also be open to the public for viewing and sales on Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm.

The Plein Air Festival is chaired by Jane O'Neill and Laurel Brower

What: 6th Annual Plein Air Festival

When: March 9 – 17, 2019

Where: Lighthouse ArtCenter Gallery & School of Art, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta, FL 33469 and outdoor painting locales throughout Palm Beach County.

Cost: Free admission to the ArtCenter Gallery to view the daily “wet paintings,” from 10 am to 6 pm, Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday is the Meet the Artist Reception from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Wednesday and Thursday the gallery will be open from 10 am to 7:30 pm. Friday, the gallery is closed to prepare for the ticketed VIP Collector’s Party in the evening. Saturday & Sunday, the gallery is open 10 am to 4 pm with the Battle of the Brushes paint out from 1 pm – 3 pm on Saturday, featuring 3 national award winning plein air artists painting the same scene in the main gallery.

VIP Collectors Preview Party and Wet Painting Sales: Friday, March 15, 2018 at the Lighthouse ArtCenter Gallery in Tequesta from 5 to 9 pm.

Tickets: \$125 per person for the VIP Preview Party and Award Ceremony 5 to 9 pm. Get first pick of the award winning art and meet the artists. General Admission is \$25 from 6:30 to 9 pm. Your ticket price is good towards the purchase of a painting during the event. Artists will be in attendance and all guests will enjoy wine, beer and delicious food provided by local eateries.

Participating Artists:

Marc Anderson
Olena Babak
Beth Bathe
Jacalyn A. Beam
David Belling
Lon Brauer
Carl Bretzke
Michele Byrne
Eli Cedrone
Marty Coulter
Kathleen Denis
Bill Farnsworth
Paul George
Eric Fei Guan
Nyle Gordon
Neal Hughes
Jane Hunt
Chris Kling
Bhavani Krishnan
John Lasater
Karen Leffel-Massengill
Andre Lucero
Spencer Meagher
Hugh O'Neill
Ralph Papa
Craig Reynolds
Manon Sander
Patrick Saunders
Elbert Shubert
W. Jason Situ
Janet Sutherland
George Van Hook
Tara Will
Cory Wright
Vladislav Yeliseyev

Some comments about last year's event:

"I feel very fortunate to be in the company of such incredibly talented artists. Thank you to all of you for making it such a great week. Thanks again to the Lighthouse Artcenter for putting on such a well organized and inspiring event."

-Jeff Markowsky, Juried Artist, Grand Prize Winner 2018, 2019 judge

"Your event is so well run and it's such a good art community so it doesn't surprise me that it was so successful. Nobody runs a better event than you all."

-Pat McDaniel, JFM Frames

"I want to thank you for organizing such a wonderful event. I've participated in several plein air events and this was a great one! Best to you all and the future success of the Lighthouse Art Center."

-Lisa Mitchell, Juried Artist

"Super excited about being accepted into this great event!"

-Kurt Anderson, Juried Artist

"So many amazing artists painting incredibly beautiful paintings of Palm Beach and Martin County. An absolute joy to do!"

-Ralph Papa, Juried Artist, Plein Air Committee Member & Lighthouse ArtCenter Faculty Member

"Great company to be in! Congrats to all the artists in this lineup! It's an honor to be among you."

-Olena Babak, Juried Artist

"It was an AMAZING event!!!"

-Elaine McCombs

ABOUT PLEIN AIR

En plein air is a French expression which means "in the open air," and is used to describe the act of painting outdoors. The mid-19th century saw working in natural light become particularly important to the impressionists, which only increased with the introduction of paint in tubes, giving additional portability to the artists.

ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE ARTCENTER

The Lighthouse ArtCenter, celebrating 55 years as a member-supported nonprofit organization, it provides visual arts for the community through unique collections, engaging exhibitions and cultural programs, a dynamic School of Art and diverse outreach activities. The Lighthouse ArtCenter Gallery is located at 373 Tequesta Drive in Tequesta, Fla. The Lighthouse ArtCenter School of Art is located at 395 Seabrook Road in Tequesta, Fla.

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LIGHTHOUSEARTCENTER
GALLERY & SCHOOL OF ART

Lighthouse ArtCenter

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Pictures available upon request.

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