Call for artists to take to the ‘open air’

Local artists are invited to take their talents to the outdoors to create works based on their interpretation of the natural environment―“en plein air,” as the French called it, or “in the open air.”

The theme for this year’s Plein Air competition is the Cohansey River and its watershed. Works will be displayed at Gallery 50, 50 E. Commerce St., Bridgeton, from Sept. 2 to 27 as part of its annual Landscape Show. Deadline for submissions is Aug. 23, and registered artists are required to check in to the Gallery the following day, Aug. 24, between 7:30 and 10 a.m. Further requirements may be found on page 2.

Awards listed

The event is open to artists age 18 and over. Awards are: first place, $400; second place, $200; and third place, $100. The awards presentation and reception will take place on Friday, Sept. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. Gallery 50 and the Cultural & Heritage Commission are co-sponsors.

Background

Plein Air painting became popular in the early nineteenth century in both Europe and America when paint manufacturers made a wide range of pre-mixed oils available in an easily transportable box easel. According to the web site p-a-p-a.com (Plein Air Painters of America), Englishman John Constable believed the artist should forget about formulas and find “truth in nature.”

The site continues, “Painting from life is a pursuit unlike any other painting technique. It challenges artists to concentrate every sensory nerve on the information in front of them. They absorb it all, re-creating their impression in paint on paper or canvas.”

Often artists will begin by painting with quick broad strokes—foregoing the typical build up of paint—and put the finishing touches on the piece when they return to their studio.

This trend towards realism in art led to the development of French Impressionism in the mid 19th century with legendary artists such as Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, Edouard Degas and Auguste Renoir. They believed that what you saw in nature was not form but rather light on form. And light could be conveyed by color.

Frank LaLumia, Plein Air Painters of America member, puts it this way: “We paint from life in order to learn how to see. It you can paint light, you can paint everything under the sun.”

An example of “plein air” art, “Take a Dip,” by Plein Air Painters of America artist Kathleen Dunphy.

www.ccculturalheritage.org
1. Standard size canvases/paper –5” x 7” to 16” x 20. Canvases and papers will be stamped at time of check-in. Registered artists may paint, after check-in, until no later than 6 PM. Return work to Gallery 50, Inc., no later than 6:30 PM.
2. Canvases entered must be framed and Works on Paper matted and framed.
3. Two works may be submitted for exhibition. However, space may require limiting to one piece (gallery discretion).
4. Work must be picked up at Gallery 50 on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., or arrangements to have work shipped prepaid must be made prior to leaving works for exhibition.
5. Painters may set up anywhere along the Cohansey River that is open to the public. The theme of all submissions should be the Cohansey River and its watershed.

**Entry Form**

- Name __________________________
- Address ________________________
- Phone________________E-mail_________________
- Web site________________Medium_________________

Mail form to: Matthew E. Pisarski, Cumberland County Dept. of Planning & Development, 790 E. Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302. or e-mail form information to mattpi@co.cumberland.nj.us or fax to (856) 453-9138. Phone: (856) 453-2175.

**Position available:** Museum part-time director

Seeking individual to oversee the daily operation of an historical museum. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills; Bachelors degree and/or experience in planning, administration, operations involved in running a museum; ability to handle and develop computerized operations; and NJ driver’s license. 20 hr./week part-time.

Interested candidates, please submit resume to Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC), 1325 State Highway 77, Seabrook, NJ 08302.