

# North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival in historic New Bern – Beaufort - Oriental

*The 4th Annual North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival in historic New Bern begins Sunday, May 12, and continues through Sunday, May 19.*

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- The 4th Annual North Carolina Plein Air Art Festival in historic New Bern begins Sunday, May 12, and continues through Sunday, May 19. The eight- day Festival showcases 35 nationally and globally acclaimed plein air artists, including 20 newly juried painters, joining 15 award winners and top performers from 2023's Festival.



Daily scheduled demonstration to interact with artists. – NC Plein Air Art Festival in New Bern  
Photography by Robbin Haigler

"The term 'plein air' is French and means 'open air'," said Kippy Hammond, Festival organizer. "Plein air painting can be traced back to Impressionist artists such as Monet, Renoir, and Degas – painting outdoors and capturing fleeting moments of light, color, atmosphere, and the mood of a scene, rather than detailed representations."

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*Kippy Hammond*

Painting venues include historic New Bern, the first state capital and second-oldest European- American town in North Carolina; Beaufort, the home of the North Carolina Maritime Museum; and Oriental, the sailing capital of North Carolina. In addition, artists will choose more sites and landscapes in Craven, Carteret, and Pamlico Counties.

According to Hammond, artists will create approximately

400 paintings featuring local scenes, subjects, and vistas, in a friendly competition to win the Best of Show Koffenberger Award, plus other prominent awards and recognition.

Festival attendees will have numerous opportunities to meet and talk with the artists, including using a real-time cell phone app showing the locations of featured painters each day. In addition, youth and adult amateur artists can meet with the pros and compete for ribbons and cash awards in the annual Quick Paint competition.

Festival headquarters, including demonstrations, workshops, art displays, and sales, will be based in historic New Bern's Farmers Market, less than two blocks from Tryon Palace. In addition, pop-up exhibits and art sales will happen in Beaufort and Oriental, with location details, dates, and times on the NC Plein Air website. All activities are free except the workshops, Saturday's awards celebration, and a modest fee for artists to enter the Quick Paint competition (no charge for spectators).

Workshops include award-winning plein air artists Shanna Kunz of Utah, signature member of Oil Painters of America, American Impressionist Society and American Tonalist Society, and James Richards of Georgia, regarded as one of the top oil painters in the nation. Both are renowned American Impressionist painters and in-demand instructors conducting workshops across the United States and Europe.

"Plein air is a popular form of art and recreational activity influenced by the rise in global tourism," said Hammond. "Artists are interested in capturing the essence of a particular place and time and celebrating the world's beauty. Plein air painters typically work in oils, watercolors, or pastels."

NC Plein Air Art Festival is owned and operated by Plein Air New Bern, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization expanding opportunities for individuals to Be a Part of Art in their communities. Artists commit a portion of all Festival art sales to support the mission of Plein Air New Bern.

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