



PRESS RELEASE

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Up to 100 Artists Expected at Downtown Painting Competition

The League of Milwaukee Artists and Wisconsin Visual Artists invite the public to get outside and view the city through a painter's eyes during the third annual Milwaukee Plein Air painting competition September 10-19.

Between 75 and 100 local and regional artists are expected to participate in "Milwaukee Plein Air - The Downtown Experience," positioning themselves throughout the downtown area all week and using the lake, river, parks and architecture of the city as inspiration for their original artwork. From Sept. 10-17, artists will be seen painting from dawn to dusk in an area bounded by Lake Michigan on the east, Old World Third Street on the west, Juneau Avenue on the north and Erie Street on the south. Some artists will even paint at night.

Plein Air is from the French "open air", a term used for paintings or drawings made directly from nature and infused with a feeling of the open air.

Interested artists can register for the event by downloading a registration form at www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com. On-site registration is accepted daily from 8-10 a.m. beginning Sept. 10 through Sept. 17 at 610 N. Water Street.

Artists entered in the "Quick Paint" event Saturday, Sept. 12, will have four hours between 8 a.m. and noon to complete a painting start to finish, competing for special prizes.



Not all the art making is for the artists, however. Families and children interested in creating their own artwork "en plein air" can visit the AWE Truck Studio at Pere Marquette Park along the Milwaukee River on **Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon**. Artist Reanna Ottoson and her assistants will arrive in AWE's mobile art studio and lead families through a painting activity inspired by the French artist Cezanne. The event is free and all supplies will be provided. Smocks will be available, but organizers suggest wearing your painting clothes.

"Artists look forward to the Plein Air competition every year, but we also hope to enhance the public's appreciation for original art," said artist and event co-chair Alisyn Kay. "Onlookers will get the unique opportunity to see work during the creation process."

The public is invited to meet the artists and bid on the original paintings at a **Silent Auction, Reception and Awards event on Friday, Sept. 18 from 5-9 p.m.**, also at 610 N. Water St., featuring refreshments and live music by alternative rock artist Annie B. More than \$5,000 in prizes will be awarded. The silent auction closes at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

An open sale of all remaining artwork will take place Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the same location. A portion of all auction and sale proceeds goes directly to Artists Working in Education (AWE) and its creative arts programs for Milwaukee children.

"We are incredibly grateful that these two groups of artists are so generously donating a portion of the proceeds to AWE," said Executive Director Sally Salkowski Witte. "It means a lot to us that the art community supports AWE's programs for children who may not have access to art opportunities at school or at home."

AWE is a non-profit organization founded in 1998 whose mission is to provide youth in the Milwaukee area with arts enrichment programs that enhance human potential, advance learning and cultivate community.

Please contact co-chairs Alisyn Kay at 262-689-7823 or positivespaceart@hotmail.com, or Joan Schneider at 414-454-0393 for more information about the Plein Air event or visit www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com

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