

La Quinta Arts Festival, La Quinta, California

EDITOR'S PAGE by Stephanie Hintz



Congratulations 200 Best!

Pelcome to the 26th annual **Sunshine Artist** 200 Best issue! The most anticipated **SA** event each year, hundreds of art and craft shows and thousands of artists eagerly page through this issue to find out who was the best of the best the previous calendar year (2017). Each show that appears in this year's 200 Best deserves to be commended, and the entire staff at **SA** wholeheartedly sends warm congratulations to you.

Beginning on page 12, you'll learn which shows placed and where they fell in their respective categories — Fine Art and Design or Classic and Contemporary Crafts. How the results were tallied is simple. Every ballot submitted by each artist or craftsperson permits them to list up to ten shows where they made the most money in 2017. A weighted system is used to calculate points (see below) and they are then tallied and ranked accordingly. This year, artists had the option to categorize each show individually, as Fine Art or Classic and Contemporary Craft, based upon the medium that the maker produced and sold at each show. So, the more ballots received by each show coupled with the point value scored based on total sales were the determining factors in establishing place and rank.

All 200 top art and craft shows in the nation are summarized within capsules (pgs. 21-32 and 41-51); please note that ad locations within this issue are identified here, making it easier to discover more information on advertised shows. As an artist or craftsperson who responds or applies to a show based on an ad you saw within the pages of **SA**, please let them know you saw it here! You will also notice we have allotted 14 pages for State Reports; read reviews on 13 different shows across the country. These reports are a helpful tool when considering whether a show might be a good fit for you and your work.

I humbly thank each reader for your continued support of **SA** and of the art and craft show industry. It is your talent, drive, and love for your craft which keeps the industry thriving— so keep shining on!

Make your mark!

Stephanie Hintz

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Sunshine Artist 200 Best Scoring

Up to \$2,000 = 1 point \$2,001-\$5,000 = 2 points \$5,001-\$10,000 = 3 points Over \$10,001 = 4 points

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The 100 Best Fine Art & Design Shows



- 1. La Quinta Arts Festival, La Quinta, CA
- 2. Armonk Outdoor Art Show, Armonk, NY
- 3. Virginia Beach Neptune Festival Art & Craft Show, Virginia Beach, VA
- 4. One of a Kind Show Spring, Chicago, IL
- 5. Chain of Parks Art Festival, Tallahassee, FL
- 6. Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair, Ann Arbor, MI
- 7. Wickford Art Festival, Wickford, RI
- 8. Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, The Original, Ann Arbor, MI
- 9. Coconut Grove Arts Festival, Miami/Coconut Grove, FL
- 10. Art & Apples Festival, Rochester, MI
- 11. Bonita Springs National Art Festival (Show 1), Bonita Springs, FL
- 12. St. James Court Art Show, Louisville, KY
- 13. Loring Park Art Festival, Minneapolis, MN
- 14. Grand Haven Art Festival, Grand Haven, MI
- 15. MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival, Fort Worth, TX
- 16. ArtFest Fort Myers, Fort Myers, FL
- 17. Naples New Year's Art Show, Naples, FL
- 18. Art Spectacular at the Carillon, Springfield, IL
- 19. Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff, St. Joseph, MI
- 20. ART on the SQUARE, Belleville, IL
- 21. Bonita Springs National Art Festival (Show2), Bonita Springs, FL
- 22. Plaza Art Fair, Kansas City, MO
- 23. Atlanta Dogwood Festival, Atlanta, GA
- 24. Halifax Art Festival, Daytona Beach, FL
- 25. Brookside Art Annual, Kansas Clty, MO
- 26. Art Fair on the Square, Madison, WI
- 27. Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, Tampa, FL
- 28. Under the Oaks Fine Arts & Craft Shows 68th Annual, Vero Beach, FL
- 29. Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park, Houston, TX
- 30. Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, Winter Park, FL
- 31. West Shore Art Fair, Ludington, MI
- 32. Indian Wells Arts Festival, Indian Wells, CA
- 33. Mainsail Art Festival, Saint Petersburg, FL
- 34. The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival, The Woodlands, TX
- 35. Alexandria King Street Art Festival, Alexandria, VA
- 36. Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival, Pensacola, FL
- 37. Bayou City Art Festival Downtown, Houston, TX
- 38. Annual Fairhope Arts & Crafts Festival, Fairhope, AL
- 39. Bonita Springs National Art Festival (Show 3), Bonita Springs, FL
- 40. Beaux Arts Festival of Art, Miami, FL
- 41. Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show, Philadelphia, PA
- 42. Port Clinton Art Festival, Highland Park, IL
- 43. Edina Art Fair, Edina, MN
- 44. Gatlinburg Craftsmen's Fair, Gatlinburg, TN
- 45. Mayfaire by the Lake, Lakeland, FL
- 46. Cottonwood Art Festival, Richardson, TX
- 47. MOCA Boardwalk Art Show, Virginia Beach, VA
- 48. Saint Louis Art Fair, Clayton, MO

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- 49. Downtown Festival of the Arts, Sarasota, FL
- 50. Artsplosure The Raleigh Arts Festival, Raleigh, NC

- 51. Artscape, Baltimore, MD
- 52. Cherokee Triangle Art Fair, Louisville, KY
- 53. Art in the Square- Southlake, Southlake, TX
- 54. Arts in the Heart of Augusta, Augusta, GA
- 55. Gold Coast Art Fair, Chicago, IL
- 56. CenterFest Arts Festival, Durham, NC
- 57. Beaux Arts Spring Fair, Davenport, IA
- 58. ArtFest Midwest 2018, West Des Moines, IA
- 59. Edina Fall into the Arts Festival, Edina, MN
- 60. Art Birmingham, Birmingham, MI
- 61. Magic City Art Connection, Birmingham, AL
- 62. Lakefront Festival of Art, Milwaukee, WI
- 63. Artisphere, Greenville, SC
- 64. Shadyside...The Art Festival on Walnut Street, Pittsburgh, PA
- 65. Mount Gretna Outdoor Art Show, Mount Gretna, PA
- 66. Ford Arts, Beats & Eats, Royal Oak, MI
- 67. Outdoor Art Show, Fairhope, AL
- 68. Haddonfield Crafts & Fine Art Festival, Haddonfield, NJ
- 69. Bethesda Fine Arts Festival, Bethesda, MD
- 70. Uptown Art Fair, Minneapolis, MN
- 71. Paradise City Northampton Spring, Northampton, MA
- 72. Guilford Art Center Craft Expo, Guilford, CT
- 73. Paradise City Marlborough Fall, Marlborough, MA
- 74. Art at the Glen Town Center, Glenview, IL
- 75. Peoria Art Guild 56th Fine Art Fair, Peoria, IL
- 76. Norcross Art Splash & Wine Festival, Norcross, GA
- 77. 57th Street Art Fair, Chicago, IL
- 78. Art at St. Kate's, St. Paul, MN
- 79. Marietta Art in the Park, Marietta, GA
- 80. Pearl Street Arts Fest, Boulder, CO
- 81. Smoky Hill River Festival, Salina, KS
- 82. Leeper Park Art Fair, Granger, IN
- 83. Outdoor Arts Festival of the Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT
- 84. Ocala Arts Festival, Ocala, FL
- 85. IMAGES: A Festival of the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL
- 86. Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Denver, CO
- 87. Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit: Fall Show, New York, NY
- 88. Cain Park Arts Festival, Cleveland Heights, OH
- 89. Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, Reston, VA
- 90. Oklahoma City Festival of the Arts, Oklahoma City, OK
- 91. Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center ArtFest by the Sea at Juno Beach, Juno Beach, FL
- 92. Art on Main, Hendersonville, NC
- 93. Festival in the Park, Charlotte, NC
- 94. Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival, Norwich, NY

99. 50th Annual Mandarin Art Festival, Jacksonville, FL

- 95. Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit: Spring Show, New York, NY
- 96. Common Ground's Birmingham Street Art Fair, Birmingham, MI
- 97. The Citizens Bank & Trust Lake Wales Arts Festival, Lake Wales, FL
- 98. Syracuse Arts & Crafts Festival, Syracuse, NY

100. Sugar Creek Arts Festival, Normal, IL

from over 600 applicants. There is a broad range of art in every medium and price point, including painting, mixed-media, printmaking/drawing/pastels, sculpture, photography/digital art, wearable art, and fine crafts. Cash prizes are awarded in every category and for Best in Show as well as Best New Artist.

Extensive marketing and media placement attracts savvy, art-buying patrons from the NYC metro area and beyond. Free family activities and entertainment, interactive art installations, and diverse food, beer, and wine vendors keep visitors engaged.

Community volunteers assist artists with booth sitting, breakfast, and snack bags. There is easy access to the field, free on-site parking, and overnight security. Booth set-up assistance is available for a nominal charge. Net proceeds of the art show benefit the North Castle Public Library.

3. Virginia Beach Neptune Festival Art & Craft Show

Virginia Beach, Virginia; September; Produced by: Virginia Beach Neptune Festival

The Atlantic Ocean is the music and the backdrop for this wildly popular, longstanding Virginia Beach tradition — the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival. Exhibitors travel from all over the U.S. to present and sell their handmade wares to the estimated 450,000 visitors who come for the three-day festival weekend.

All mediums and price points are represented. Roughly half the exhibitors adhere to more stringent artistic guidelines and their work is considered award-eligible. Ten awards totaling \$2,600 are given out, with First Place taking home a \$750 prize.

4. One of a Kind Show-Spring

Chicago, Illinois; April; Produced by: Merchandise Mart Properties

More than 300 exhibitors feature their work at the prestigious One of a Kind Show each spring. The award-winning show boasts and ideal downtown Chicago location, a premium indoor exhibiting environment, unparalleled promotional opportunities, and exceptional artist support.

In addition to shopping directly from artists, attendees enjoy a fine art gallery, interactive workshops, fashion shows, gourmet cafes, and live music.

5. Chain of Parks Art Festival

Tallahassee, Tennessee; April; Produced by: LeMoyne Arts

The annual Chain of Parks Art Festival is a two-day juried fine art festival held in a group of city parks known as the "Chain of Parks" in downtown Tallahassee. With a festival attendance of 40,000, patrons enjoy the wares of 175 talented artists, music, food, and a children's art workshop. Proceeds from the Chain of Parks Art Festival benefit LeMoyne Arts, a nonprofit center for the visual arts.

Selected artists have the opportunity to win \$10,000 in awards; Best of Show is awarded \$2,000. Artist amenities include: artist hospitality area with complimentary restrooms and portable toilets, event T-shirt, booth sitters, 24hour onsite security, artist image and live link on the festival website, marketing tools, complimentary reserved parking, some RV parking, and automatic jury-free entry to top award winners for the next year's festival.



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