



Chain of Parks ART FESTIVAL

Produced by **LeMoyne Arts**
Presented by **Mad Dog Construction**

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LeMoyne's Chain of Parks Art Festival Transforms Tallahassee's Downtown in its 19th Year Celebrating Fine Art with a Local Flare

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – LeMoyne's Chain of Parks Art Festival will host over 170 fine artists from across the country in its 19th year of bringing the arts to Tallahassee's downtown chain of parks. This weekend brings one of the most anticipated outdoor cultural events in our region.

Kicking off this year's festival, through a partnership with FSU's Opening Nights, is artist and award-winning filmmaker Joe Hutto with a presentation on The Nature of Art. The presentation will be held on Thursday, April 25, 6:00 pm at the Turnbull Conference Center.

Mark Hinson will be the Moderator for the Q&A with Joe Hutto

Mark Hinson was a journalist and columnist for the Tallahassee Democrat for 28 years. Over the years, he has interviewed and written about hundreds of celebrities, including singer Rita Coolidge (Joe Hutto's wife). On stage, he has conducted talks with composer Philip Glass, Oscar-winning actor J.K. Simmons and critic Ken Tucker.

Hutto will talk on the motivating force that seems to perpetually define the most significant expressions of our humanity, sharing his perspectives regarding the biological foundation of the aesthetic experience and the development of a mysterious driving force that appears to be peculiar to our species. The Natural History of art is an organic reflection of the most remarkable and perhaps the most significant aspect of our Human Nature.

Joe Hutto is a nationally recognized artist in photography, painting and bronze sculpture as well as an Emmy award-winning filmmaker and author of several internationally recognized books. His writing, scientific research, photography and artwork have been featured in numerous regional and national publications, including the *Smithsonian* and *The New Yorker*. He has worked as a professional archaeologist and as a curator and conservator for the Museum of Florida History. For many years he was a field biologist for the State of Wyoming, studying Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and mule deer. A life-long professional musician, Hutto has recorded and appeared on stage with multiple Grammy® Award-winning artists. He grew up in

Tallahassee, is a graduate of Florida State University and is now, again, a full-time resident of the Capital City.

“We have had a tremendous response to our inaugural Opening Nights kick off for the art festival”, said Kelly Dozier, Festival Chair. “We are grateful to Joe Hutto and Mark Hinson for lending their time and talents to this presentation about the nature of art and look forward to watching the partnership between ON and Chain of Parks Art Festival and what it brings to our community continue grow in years to come.”

The festival has received national attention garnering a #1 fine art festival ranking in 2017 and #5 in 2018.

Sheri Sanderson, Artist Relations Manager, who has been with the festival for over eleven years said, “Being recognized as one of the top five fine art festivals in the nation is a dream come true! We work hard each year to bring the best artists from around the country to Tallahassee and to plan a fun cultural experience for everyone.”

Other exciting news includes a first time listing in the “Blue Chip 100” Fine Art Events by Art Fair Source Book. The Chain of Parks Art Festival debuts on this list, which measures sales of fine art in 2018, at #87.

In its third year, the Saturday Evening Concert performance scheduled for April 27 at 5:00pm on the Main Stage will feature the energetic musical performances of Tallahassee Nights Live. This performance is free and open to the public.

The 19th Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28, 2019, at the Bloxham, Lewis and Randolph “Chain of Parks,” located in Downtown Tallahassee. The festival is produced by LeMoyne Arts and Presented by Mad Dog Construction.

Visitors to the festival can expect to have a first-class, fun-filled outdoor cultural experience at the Chain of Parks Art Festival. View amazing, original and one-of-a-kind works of art in a delightful Southern outdoor setting. Enjoy a wide variety of live entertainment, a host of local food trucks and vendors, and libations served enthusiastically at the W XYZ Bar by Aloft. This annual two-day festival draws tens of thousands of people from the Big Bend Southeast region to see 170+ artists who have traveled from all over the country to display their original fine art works. Free and open to the public.

“The festival has gathered some of the area’s best food trucks to delight the palate while hosting our area’s finest musical talents on the main stage”, said Vanessa Rowse, Festival Manager. “We have created a family friendly, fun-filled experience for everyone to stroll through the downtown parks and take in the arts and the beauty of our community.”

This year's cover artist is John H.C. Davis.

Davis earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus in printmaking from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA in 1986. Shortly after graduation, John moved to Florida and now lives in Pensacola where he is continually influenced by his coastal surroundings.

His work aims to capture the subtle designs of nature using a range of printmaking techniques, which he has developed into his own graphic designs with clear lines and repetitive patterns. The color scheme of his work is heavily influenced by the brilliant colors of the home of his birth, Puerto Rico, and those of the Florida coast. Recently he has included the use of traditional patterns observed during trips to the UK and Europe.

His preferred medium is a linoleum block print on handmade paper. Each piece is hand pulled and individually painted with acrylic paint. As a professional picture framer, Davis also builds picture frames and embellishes borders specially designed to enhance each piece of art. As a new feature, he is providing mirrors with borders which incorporate the features of the original linoleum block prints and provide utilitarian purpose.

Davis is constantly focused on producing new pieces of art. He is an award-winning artist, frequently participating in festivals and on exhibit in select galleries throughout Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Georgia.



2019 Cover Artist John Davis and his cover art "Whispering Palm"

Visit www.chainofparks.com for more information.

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