



**20th Annual
Chain of Parks Art Festival**

Media Kit



“Under the Oaks” by Kelly Rysavy



April 18 & 19, 2020

Produced by LeMoyne Arts

Presented by Mad Dog Construction

Additional Support by Visit Tallahassee, Leon County, City of Tallahassee and Downtown CRA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Chain of Parks Art Festival Shines in 20th Year

~North Florida's Premier Fine Art Festival is a Tallahassee Legacy~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Celebrating the arts is a Tallahassee tradition. Now celebrating its 20th year, the LeMoyne Chain of Parks Art Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19, 2020, at the Bloxham, Lewis and Randolph “Chain of Parks” in Downtown Tallahassee. This event will host residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy Tallahassee’s springtime weather, fine art, live music, food and activities during what has come to be known as a legacy event for the Capital City.

“The twenty year mark is a huge milestone for us,” said Festival Chair Kelly Dozier. “Planning this incredible event alongside passionate volunteers for two decades have been a lot of fun and a labor of love. We enjoy bringing such fabulous artists to our community and booking new, exciting talent. Each year, the festival has grown more popular and even more competitive for artists to participate -- seeing it evolve into the community cornerstone has been such a joy.”

The festival will be open all weekend, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., with an evening groove on Saturday from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. with Tallahassee Night Live! performing. Admission is free of charge and open to the public. Proceeds from the festival benefit LeMoyne Arts’ educational and exhibition programs.

Under a canopy of mossy oaks, visitors can view and purchase unique works of art from 170 carefully selected fine artists and enjoy local heritage re-enactments, family fun, local food vendors, children’s art activities and live entertainment. “The Village,” a highly interactive section of the festival, includes community partners and children’s art programs where the youngest guests can participate in pop-up studios, interactive activities and various types of craft-making. And on its 20th anniversary, the festival is launching a new 3D chalk art

component, bringing four noted street artists to Tallahassee to create their art during the festival -- guests walking in the parks downtown will be in awe of what these artists are capable of bringing to life.

Ranked in the Top 100 Fine Art Festivals in the nation for the fifth year in a row by *Sunshine Artist Magazine*, this year's event is expected to be a fun-filled cultural encounter under century-old trees in a charming, Southern setting. The festival continues to be a tourist draw and economic benefit for the City. Visit Tallahassee's recent survey of the festival's economic impact showed \$2.4 million generated by festival visitors. The study also showed that last year, 6,720 individuals from outside Leon County attended the festival. The event is now recognized as a Visit Tallahassee "Legacy Event" due to its out of area visitor attendance.

Through a continuing partnership with [Sustainable Tallahassee](#), the 2020 festival will "Go Green" for the fifth year, reducing landfill and food waste and educating the public about recycling and other sustainable practices.

Juried Art Competition

During the two-day event, people from around the Big Bend area and southeast region of the country come to see talented artists who have been juried into the festival, each competing for more than \$10,000 in awards. Many artists have traveled from across the nation to display their original work. On Saturday of the festival, expert judges will review the artists' submissions in each media category, and winners will be announced at an Artists Award Ceremony on Saturday prior to the evening concert. Winning artists will display their award ribbons and flags in their booths on Sunday.

2020 Cover Artist

The 2020 cover artist is Tallahassee local **Kelly Rysavy**. Her work, "*Under the Oaks*" will grace the cover of the festival program, in addition to being featured on festival souvenirs available for purchase.

"I am so excited about the opportunity to meet with collectors and network with other artists," said Rysavy. "There are so many talented artists out there, and I learn so much from them while on the road."

Rysavy currently lives in both Tallahassee and St. George Island, Fla. Being primarily a self-taught artist, her oil paintings range from landscapes, figurative studies, and still-life's as well as an occasional abstract. Her subjects, media and techniques vary vastly due to the fact she wants to experience and try everything. While she enjoys the quiet solitude of her studio, she delights in painting on location and is doing more plein-air work.

"Painting from life creates an intimacy with the subject that I just can't get from photographs, and it heightens my sense of spontaneity," Rysavy added. "That energy is translated to the canvas in and out of the studio. I don't want to be branded as an artist that only paints one thing. How will I grow and learn from doing that? Also, what interests me most is the relationship between the color harmony, patterns and shapes. I like to view life at a glance and try to capture it on canvas. I want my art to engage viewers, like those who pass by while painting on location and have them stop and experience the work with me."

For more information on the 2020 Chain of Parks Art Festival, visit www.ChainofParks.com. Those interested in more information about the festival can follow and engage with Chain of Parks on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter \(@ChainofParks\)](#).



April 18 & 19, 2020

History

Originally started in 2001, the Chain of Parks Art Festival was designed to offer our community an outdoor, fine art experience which was previously not found in our region.

LeMoyné's Executive Director at the time, Mary Beth Foss, began the festival working with a few local artists who were interested in having an opportunity to participate in an outdoor fine art festival. The festival took its name from the beautiful venue in which it is held, the Downtown Tallahassee 'Chain of Parks' along Park Avenue started as a small festival of about 50 local and regional artists. The Festival was not only designed to be a diverse fine art experience, but also to provide a vehicle by which LeMoyné Art Foundation could raise funds for its ongoing exhibitions and art education programs. Over the life of the Festival, it has grown into LeMoyné's number one fundraiser and in 2012 experienced a 50% increase in funds raised over the prior year resulting in \$65,000 of support for LeMoyné's ongoing programs. In 2018 the festival achieved a level of out of area visitors which allowed it to receive significant support from Visit Tallahassee, Leon County, City of Tallahassee and the Downtown Community Redevelopment Agency helping the festival reach its fundraising goal of \$100,000+ annually while significantly increasing its marketing budget.

After eight years of being planned and organized by LeMoyné staff with assistance from volunteers, the Festival was transitioned into a volunteer driven event. Volunteer Chairs were appointed by the LeMoyné Board. Charles and Cynthia Tunnicliff and Kelly Dozier began to take the Festival to new heights bringing more artists to the Festival and broadening the reach through marketing and personal outreach to travelling artists in order to expand the variety and quality of original art displayed in the Festival.

In 2009 Sheri O. Sanderson joined the Festival Committee as Event Manager and has brought her exceptional event management skills and experience to the team. Sheri manages all the intricate behind the scenes with the artist, the Tallahassee Police Department, City of Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Department, Alcohol and Beverage Licensing, equipment rentals, the Festival Program, other printed materials and much more.

Kelly S. Dozier has served as Festival Chair since 2009 and through visiting other art festivals and keeping an open eye to new ideas, has brought a number of initiatives to the festival, which have added interactive opportunities as well as depth to the experience. Some of those initiatives are: The Village - including Community Partners and Children's Art Programs, Jacques Le Moyné Living History Encampment, Greening the Festival, "BetheArt" Photo Opportunities and Pop-up Entertainment. Kelly has also served as Sponsor Chair since 2008 bringing in more than \$75,000 in sponsorships each year. The festival continues to grow in quality and notoriety including being recognized as one of the Top 100 fine art festivals in the country by **Sunshine Artist Magazine**.

The Festival Mission: The LeMoyne Chain of Parks Art Festival is established to present an outdoor festival of high quality original artwork and entertainment for the enjoyment of our Tallahassee area residents and visitors, while fostering the careers and financial support of local and regional artists and raising needed funds for the operation of LeMoyne Arts.



April 18 & 19, 2020

2020 LeMoyne Chain of Parks Art Festival Cover Artist



Kelly Rysavy

The 2020 LeMoyne Chain of Parks Art Festival cover artist is Kelly Rysavy. Kelly currently lives in Tallahassee and St. George Island, Florida. Being primarily a self-taught artist, her oil paintings range from landscapes, figurative studies, and still-life's as well as an occasional abstract. Her subjects, media and techniques vary vastly due to the fact she wants to experience and try everything.

Over the last three years she has been traveling around Florida doing a number of art shows. She states, "I am so excited about the opportunity to meet with collectors and network with other artists. There are so many talented artists out there and I learn so much from them while on the road." Making the pursuit of art a full-time commitment was the best and most fulfilling thing she ever did.

While she enjoys the quiet solitude of her studio, she delights in painting on location and is doing more plein-air than ever. She states, "Painting from life creates an intimacy with the subject that I just can't get from photographs, and it heightens my sense of spontaneity. That energy is translated to the canvas in and out of the studio. I don't want to be branded as an artist that only paints one thing. How will I grow and learn from doing that. Also, what interests me most is the relationship between the color harmony, patterns and shapes. I

like to view life at a glance and try to capture it on canvas. I want my art to engage viewers, like those who pass by while painting on location and have them stop and experience the work with me.”

2020 LeMoyne Chain of Parks Art Festival Opening Night Presenting Artist



Michael Rosato

LeMoyne's Chain of Parks Art Festival is bringing Michael Rosato, acclaimed muralist and FSU graduate, to be its presenter for the organization's collaboration with FSU's Opening Nights on Thursday, April 16 at the FSU Alumni Center.

Rosato specializes in designing and painting large-scale murals for public and private spaces. Museums, corporations and individuals have commissioned Rosato to create artworks for display in museum exhibits, corporate headquarters, retail spaces, restaurants, sports arenas, outdoor venues and private residences.

Rosato describes his style as representational realism and he enjoys telling vivid and often emotional stories through his work. His recent mural of abolitionist and conductor on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman, in Cambridge, Maryland, has received international acclaim.

For additional, please visit his website at www.michaelrosato.com.



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LeMoyne's Chain of Parks Art Festival | April 18 - 19, 2020

Editorial Ideas

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- Kelly Dozier, Festival Chair | (850) 544-6399 | kelly@morethanbuildings.com

Tallahassee's Artful Legacy: Festival Shines in 20th Year

Ranked in the Top 100 Fine Art Festivals in the nation for the fifth year in a row by *Sunshine Artist Magazine*, this year's event is expected to be a fun-filled cultural encounter under century-old trees in a charming, Southern setting. The festival continues to be a tourist draw and economic benefit for the City. Visit Tallahassee's recent survey of the festival's economic impact showed \$2.4 million generated by festival visitors. The study also showed that last year, 6,720 individuals from outside Leon County attended the festival. The event is now recognized as a Visit Tallahassee "Legacy Event" due to its out of area visitor attendance.

Local Artist Celebrated during Festival's 20th Year

The 2020 cover artist is Tallahassee resident Kelly Rysavy. Her work, "*Under the Oaks*" will grace the cover of the festival program, in addition to being featured on festival souvenirs available for purchase. Rysavy currently lives in Tallahassee and St. George Island, Florida. Being primarily a self-taught artist, her oil paintings range from landscapes, figurative studies, and still-life's as well as an occasional abstract. Her subjects, media and techniques vary vastly due to the fact she wants to experience and try everything. While she enjoys the quiet solitude of her studio, she delights in painting on location and is doing more plein-air work.

Chalk Artists

On its 20th anniversary, the festival is launching a new 3D chalk art component, bringing four noted street artists to Tallahassee to create their art during the festival -- guests walking in the parks downtown will be in awe of what these artists are capable of bringing to life.

Anat Roten

Anat is a Houston based, self-taught artist. She became a professional artist in her late 30s, following her and her husband's decision to emigrate to the USA. Anat has created hundreds of pieces in the past ten years. Her work is displayed in museums and select shows internationally. In addition to her

mural work, Anat participates in international street painting and street art festivals nationwide and around the world. She is a multi-disciplinary artist that loves to share her gift with the world.

Ever Galvez

Ever Galvez is a fine artist, classically trained in painting, drawing, sculpture and animation. He is known most prominently for his award winning chalk art talent. Through his art, he shares an interpretation of colors that goes beyond what the naked eye can see in all that surrounds him. He combines this with his deep respect for the traditional arts to create a form of realism that he believes brings a subject's true colors and emotions to the surface for all to experience.

Jolene Russel

Jolene received a BA in Fine Art from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2008. Last year, her 3D work in Germany won her first place at the Wilhelmshaven Street Art Festival. Every year she participates in numerous street painting festivals across the United States and Europe, and she is excited to bring her work to Tallahassee.

Carlos Alberto

Carlos Alberto is a former art conservator turned street artist. He has been painting for most of his life, but only began street painting in recent years and immediately he became fascinated with it. In 2015 he began working in the streets, using the pavement and walls as his canvas, enjoying that his art is available to all kinds of people. For him, street painting was a hobby turned successful career, traveling to different countries to be featured in important festivals around the world.

2020 Opening Nights Presenting Artist

The 2020 opening nights presenting artist is painter Michael Rosato. Rosato specializes in designing and painting large-scale murals for public and private spaces. Museums, corporations and individuals have commissioned Mr. Rosato to create artworks for display in museum exhibits, corporate headquarters, retail spaces, restaurants, sports arenas, outdoor venues and private residences. His recent mural of abolitionist and conductor on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman, has received international acclaim. Rosato describes his style as representational realism and he enjoys telling vivid and often emotional stories through his work. His murals can be seen in venues across the country, including the Oklahoma City National Memorial in Oklahoma City, OK, Texas Motor Speedway, in Fort Worth, TX, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, the Headquarters of Bacardi in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Globe Life Park, home to the Texas Rangers, in Arlington, TX, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Museum in Cape Charles, VA, the Chesapeake Country Mural Trail in Dorchester County, MD and the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA. Mr. Rosato's studio is located in Cambridge, Maryland. Learn more at www.michaelrosato.com.

The Color Green: Chain of Parks Art Festival

The festival continues its "Go Green" partnership with Sustainable Tallahassee focusing on three initiatives: (1) sustainability education, (2) reducing landfill waste and (3) reducing food waste.

For more information about the LeMoyne's Chain of Parks Art Festival, visit www.chainofparks.com or email chainofparks@lemoyne.org.



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20th Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival

~North Florida's Premier Fine Art Festival is a Tallahassee Legacy~

TALLAHASSEE – The 20th Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19, 2020. Visitors can view and purchase unique fine art creations from more than 170 artists from throughout the United States, while enjoying a weekend filled with various artistic creations, family fun, local culinary creations, children's art activities and foot-stomping live entertainment.

WHO: LeMoyne Arts

WHAT: 20th Annual Chain of Parks Art Festival

WHEN: Saturday April 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday Evening *Groove*, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Downtown Tallahassee Chain of Parks
along Park Avenue, east of Monroe Street

PRICE: **FREE**

For more information on the Chain of Parks Art Festival events, including photos from past festivals, please visit the website at www.chainofparks.com. Anyone interested in more information about the festival can follow and engage with Chain of Parks on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and Twitter ([@ChainofParks](#)).

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Media Files

Cover Artist Kelly Rysavy



Cover Art Poster-



Chain of Parks Logo



Chain of Parks
ART FESTIVAL

