



Fall Fair at Gooseneck Vineyards ARTIST GUIDE

October 24 and 25, 2026

About the Fall Art Fair	P. 2
General Fair Information <i>Attendance, Event Site, Weather</i>	P. 2
Eligible Fine Art, Fine Functional Art, Crafts & Cards <i>Art Definitions & Eligibility Requirements</i>	P. 3
Condition of Acceptance <i>Refunds & Cancellations, Booth Requirements, Booth Fees & Booth Display Requirements</i>	P. 3
Tax Permits	P. 6

Please read this Artist Guide carefully and completely

About the Fall Art Fair

The Fall Art Fair at Gooseneck Vineyards returns for its second year in 2026 and, for the first time, will be expanded into a two-day event. This invitational show brings together three distinguished groups of artists: 2026 Wickford Art Festival artists, Wickford Art Association Juried Artist Members (JAMs), and a select group of invited guest artists.

Set against the scenic backdrop of Gooseneck Vineyards, the fair offers visitors the opportunity to experience exceptional fine art in a beautiful vineyard setting. Participation is limited to just 75 artists, creating a carefully curated event that highlights quality, originality, and artistic excellence. Artists who receive an invitation and complete the application process are guaranteed acceptance into the fair.

Proceeds from the Fall Art Fair directly support the mission of the Wickford Art Association. Funds raised help provide scholarships to Rhode Island high school students pursuing higher education in the visual arts, while also supporting the Association's exhibitions, educational programs, workshops, and community arts initiatives.

General Fair Information for Artists

Attendance, Event Site & Weather

- **Attendance:** As a participating artist, you are required to be present **both days** of the Fall Art Fair (Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25). Failure to comply may result in ineligibility for future Fall Art Fair invitations.
- **Event Site:** The Fair is held within the vineyard at Gooseneck Vineyards. **No vehicles are permitted on the vineyard grounds.** Artists should plan to bring dollies, hand trucks, carts, or wagons to transport booths, artwork, and supplies across the grass. We strongly recommend bringing someone to assist with setup and breakdown.
- **Setup:** Artist setup will take place on **Friday, October 23**, and **Saturday morning, October 24**, prior to the start of the Fair. Volunteers are recruited to assist artists with setup and breakdown; however, volunteer availability cannot be guaranteed.
 - Detailed information regarding setup times, parking, unloading, and event logistics will be emailed to participating artists in the weeks leading up to the Fair.
- **Weather:** The Fall Art Fair is an outdoor event and will be held **rain or shine.**
 - In the event of severe or dangerous weather, Wickford Art Association reserves the right to delay the opening, temporarily suspend activities, adjust operating hours, or close the Fair early if necessary for the safety of artists, volunteers, and visitors.
 - The Fair will **not** be rescheduled to another date.
 - Artists are responsible for preparing for all types of New England weather. Booths must be securely weighted and weatherproofed. Artists should bring tent sidewalls, waterproof coverings, and any battery-operated fans or heaters needed for comfort and protection of artwork.

- o Umbrellas and awnings extending from your tent are permitted. Please be considerate of neighboring artists and visitors by keeping umbrellas, chairs, and displays out of the aisles and ensuring they do not obstruct adjacent booths.
- o **No refunds** will be issued due to artist cancellation or inclement weather.
- **Drug-Free Event:** The Fall Art Fair is a drug-free event.
- **Pets:** For the safety and comfort of all participants and visitors, artists are strongly encouraged to leave companion animals at home.

Eligible Fine Art, Fine Functional Art, Crafts & Cards

All work must be **original** and created by the exhibiting artist. Artwork must be signed by the artist, where appropriate for the medium, and entered in the appropriate category.

Artists may exhibit **fine art, fine functional art, handcrafted crafts, and original artist designed cards**. Commercially manufactured items, buy/sell merchandise, imports, or work created from commercially available kits are **NOT** permitted.

All artwork must be produced using **archival quality materials** whenever applicable, meaning high quality materials designed to resist aging and deterioration.

Limited edition works are permitted but must be signed and numbered by the artist, with editions limited to **300 pieces**.

Art Definitions & Eligibility Requirements

The Fall Art Fair does **not permit machine-made, mass-produced, commercial, or enhanced work**. Artwork created by a large staff or production team is also not eligible. All work must be created by the individual exhibiting artist and must reflect the artist's own creative process, craftsmanship, and artistic vision.

Artists are encouraged to provide detailed information about their materials, techniques, and creative process within their artist statement.

Machine-worked: Work created with the assistance of machinery while still incorporating significant hand-manipulation, craftsmanship, and artistic involvement by the individual artist.

Machine-made: Work created primarily through the use of heavy machinery, computer-aided processes, or templates, with limited individual artistic involvement in the production process.

Mass-produced: Work created in large quantities using heavy machinery, computer-aided processes, or templates that reduce or eliminate the need for individual hand-tooling or craftsmanship.

Commercial: Artwork, products, or merchandise purchased from another artist, vendor, manufacturer, or source and resold by the exhibiting artist.

Enhanced: Items purchased from another vendor or source that are assembled, altered, embellished, or decorated by the artist.

Conditions of Acceptance

All work displayed at the Fall Art Fair must maintain the same high level of quality, craftsmanship, and artistic integrity represented in the images originally submitted for jury review. Only the medium(s) and category(ies) for which you were juried may be exhibited and sold at the Fair.

Upon acceptance, artists are required to review the **Eligible Fine Art, Fine Functional Art, Crafts & Cards** requirements and ensure that all work brought to the event complies with the stated guidelines.

Please be respectful of fellow exhibitors who have committed to these standards. To maintain the quality and integrity of the Fall Art Fair, Wickford Art Association representatives will actively review booths throughout both days of the event. Artists may be asked to remove any work that does not meet Fair requirements, including but not limited to artwork outside the approved category, unjuried mediums, non-compliant prints, excessive browse bins, or items that do not align with the Fair's eligibility standards.

Artists are required to be present and fully set up for **both days of the Fall Art Fair: Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25.**

Refunds & Cancellations

To request a cancellation and refund, artists must contact the Festival Director by email at wickfordartfestival@gmail.com by the deadlines listed below. Refund requests will be processed according to the following schedule:

- Cancellation requests received on or before **September 30, 2026** are eligible for a full refund of the booth fee.
- Cancellation requests received between **October 1 and October 10, 2026**, for any reason, are eligible for a 50% refund of the booth fee.
- Cancellation requests received after **October 10, 2026**, for any reason, are not eligible for a refund.

Booth Requirements

Exhibitors are responsible for providing their own booth setup and must be prepared for all weather conditions. **All tents must be white.**

Booth Fees

- Single Booth, Non-Member: \$350
- Single Booth, WAA Member: \$300

Booth Display Requirements

1. Displays must be sturdy, professional, and tasteful.
 - o Tables must be covered on all four sides to the ground.

- o Boxes, storage containers, and excess materials must be stored out of sight.
 - o Booths may not exceed standard booth height or the 10' x 10' footprint. Any booth exceeding these dimensions may be subject to relocation at the discretion of WAA staff.
 - o Booths must comply with fire safety regulations. Exhibitors must be prepared to provide manufacturer documentation or certification to Fire Officials upon request.
 - o For emergency purposes, booth numbers must be clearly displayed on the upper left-hand side of the front of the booth, as required by the North Kingstown Fire Marshal.
 - o Stakes may not be used to secure tents. All tents must be secured with appropriate weights or sandbags.
2. Fair staff may require removal of any non-juried mediums or work that does not meet Fair requirements.
Items featuring an artist's work for resale, including but not limited to bags, merchandise, pens, t-shirts, keychains, magnets, or similar products, are **not permitted**. Free promotional giveaways are allowed. Artist-designed notecards and books featuring the artist's work are permitted.
 3. Commercial prints, multiple reproductions, multiple cast objects, or buy/sell merchandise are not permitted.
 4. Reproductions must be signed and numbered limited editions of fewer than 300 pieces and may only be displayed in browse bins or boxes.
 5. Photography must be produced using archival ink on archival paper and must be signed and numbered limited editions, limited to a maximum of 300 pieces.
 6. All two-dimensional hanging artwork must be professionally framed or gallery wrapped.
 7. Booths must be attended by the exhibiting artist. No agents or representatives are permitted to staff booths. Fair staff may assist with brief booth-sitting needs when available.
 8. Artists are responsible for carrying their own insurance coverage for artwork, personal belongings, and booth displays. The Wickford Art Association is not responsible for loss, theft, damage, or injury during the Fair.
 9. A Rhode Island Retail Sales Tax Permit is required. Additional information is available on the artist information page of the website. Temporary permits will also be available onsite.
 10. Exhibitors are responsible for maintaining a clean, organized booth and surrounding area throughout the Fair and must leave the space clean upon departure.

11. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in dismissal from the current Fall Art Fair and may affect eligibility for future participation.

Requirements marked with an asterisk are conditions established by the North Kingstown Fire Department for issuance of the 2026 event permit.

Tax Permits

Although original artwork and qualifying limited-edition artwork may be exempt from Rhode Island sales tax (certain restrictions apply), the State of Rhode Island requires all participating artists to have either a **Temporary Retail Sales Permit** or an **Annual Retail Sales Permit**.

- **Temporary Retail Sales Permits** may be electronically or onsite at Fall Fair Registration. Four copies of the permit will be emailed to each artist prior to the event so forms may be completed in advance and ready for processing at registration.
- There is **no charge** for a Temporary Retail Sales Permit.
- **Annual Retail Sales Permits** may be obtained free of charge through the State of Rhode Island prior to the Festival. A link to apply for an Annual Permit will be available on the Wickford Art Association website.
- The Wickford Art Association is required to maintain a copy of each artist's permit on file. Artists who have an Annual Retail Sales Permit and/or a Certificate of Exemption should submit current copies with their application whenever possible or bring copies to Festival Registration.

REVISED 7/2026