

The Wickford Art Association
presents the 63rd Annual



ARTIST GUIDE

July 11 and July 12, 2025

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Please read this Artist Guide carefully and in its entirety.
Applications not following our guidelines will not be considered.

ABOUT THE WICKFORD ART FESTIVAL

The Wickford Art Festival is an annual juried fine art show. Started by local artists as a sidewalk show in the historic coastal village of Wickford in 1961, it was followed by the establishment of the Wickford Art Association in 1962 to carry on the event and to promote fine arts in the community. The annual Wickford Art Festival showcases the talent of 200+ juried fine artists each summer, attracting dedicated art enthusiasts and buyers from all over the region. The event supports the mission of the Wickford Art Association with proceeds benefiting the Stephen A. Klein Scholarship Program, which awards Rhode Island high school students scholarship funds to support their efforts in pursuing higher education in the arts field. The Wickford Art Association's gallery hosts monthly exhibits, classes, lectures, demonstrations, community events and concerts, which are all available to the public as well as our members.

Applications for the Wickford Art Festival are open January – March 15 each year. Your jury package will be juried on originality, workmanship and professional presentation. Jurors also consider total show composition (i.e. number of exhibitors per category.)

This year's accepted artists will be sent additional festival information in an email from the Festival Director (wickfordartfestival@gmail.com). Additional details for artists will be communicated as we get closer to the event.

GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION FOR ARTISTS

ATTENDANCE, EVENT SITE, WEATHER

- As a participating artist, you are expected to be present BOTH DAYS of the event: July 11 and 12, 2025. Non-compliance can result in exclusion from the festival for a minimum of 2 years.
- This event is located on a flat and well maintained soccer field - NO VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED ON THIS FIELD. Be prepared to have help setting up and to move your equipment and materials across the grass using dolly's, hand trucks, carts or wagons.
- Setup takes place Friday July 10th and Saturday morning July 11th before the start of the event. Volunteers are recruited to help artists with setup, breakdown along with extra carts - however access to the carts and availability of the volunteers are not guaranteed.
 - *More details about timing of setup, logistics and more will be sent via email in the weeks leading up to the festival.*
- The Wickford Art Festival is an outdoor art festival. The show goes on — rain or shine!
 - If a severe weather event is forecasted, festival management may delay the start of, postpone a portion of or end the event early. This is for extreme weather circumstances only.

- The hours of the festival may be adjusted to compensate for any lost time due to a delay or postponement. The festival WILL NOT be rescheduled on any other day than Saturday or Sunday.
- You MUST be prepared for all weather events that may come with summer in New England, including waterproofing your tent, sides for shade or battery operated fans for cooling.
- Additional umbrellas over chairs outside your tent are permitted as well as overhangs/awnings off your tent. Please be respectful of your neighbor artists and the general public when it comes to using umbrellas or chairs in the aisles of the festival.
- NO REFUNDS for cancellation or inclement weather.
- The Wickford Art Festival is a drug-free event.
- For their safety, we **strongly** advise leaving your companion animals at home. The heat and humidity can be dangerous for their health.

ARTIST AMENITIES

- Discounted hotel rates are available at area hotels. (info sent via email)
- Artist & Community Dinner hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Friday, July 10th.
- Robust marketing and advertising throughout the spring and summer in local media outlets, social media and regional art magazines.
- There is full overnight security on Friday and Saturday.
- Portable restrooms only are available to artists and the public.
- The weather may be hot and humid - you must be prepared with your own water, hydrating liquids and food. However, FREE bottled water is distributed to artists by volunteers.
- Booth sitters are available upon request should you need to use the restroom, take a break or order some food.

ELIGIBLE FINE ART & FINE FUNCTIONAL ART

ALL WORK MUST BE ORIGINAL AND SIGNED BY THE ARTIST. IN APPLICABLE CATEGORIES. ARCHIVAL QUALITY MATERIALS MUST BE USED (I.E., HIGH QUALITY MATERIALS THAT ARE RESISTANT TO AGING). EDITIONS MUST BE LIMITED TO 300 SIGNED PIECES.*

ELIGIBLE ART

CERAMICS

Three-dimensional clay and porcelain work created by the artist. Work may not be machine-made or mass-produced. *Jewelry is not included in this category.*

DIGITAL ART

Works may be created using digital technology or by using digital programs to significantly manipulate or alter source material(s) such as scans or digital files. Artwork must be original in conception and adhere to copyright and appropriation guidelines. Work created by or with the aid of Artificial Intelligence is not permitted. Works must be in limited editions **no greater than 300 including all sizes**, signed and numbered using only archival quality materials* (see description above). Digital Art prints must be made from the artist's original digital file under the artist's supervision.

DRAWINGS & PASTELS

Two-dimensional works created by the artist using dry media including chalk, charcoal, pastels, pencils, wax crayon, or from the fluid medium of inks and washes, applied by pen, brush, or other tools for mark-making. Work must be created with archival quality materials *(see description above) and properly signed.

FIBERS

Fiber art refers to fine art whose material consists of natural or synthetic fiber and other components, such as fabric or yarn. It focuses on the materials and on the manual labor on the part of the artist as part of the works' significance, and prioritizes aesthetic value over utility.

GLASS

Three-dimensional work created by the artist in glass. Techniques include but are not limited to blowing, kiln-casting, fusing, slumping, or flame-working. No molds or other forms of mass production are permitted.

JEWELRY

Jewelry created by the artist without the use of commercial casts, molds, kits or a production studio, regardless of medium. Jewelry created solely through the stringing of commercially available beads and similar materials on wire, string or cord, with no elements created by the artist, is not permitted. **Only artists accepted in the jewelry category may display or sell jewelry.**

MIXED MEDIA

Two-dimensional, one-of-a-kind works created by the artist in which the primary intent is the union of two (2) or more art mediums or materials, or Three-dimensional, one-of-a-kind works created by the artist in which the primary intent is the union of two (2) or more physical materials. Artwork must be original in conception and adhere to copyright and appropriation guidelines.

PAINTING

Two-dimensional work created by the artist with pigment including oils, acrylics, as well as egg tempera, casein, alkyd, and encaustic (excluding watercolor). Work must be created with archival quality materials *(see description above) and properly signed.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Two-dimensional work created by the artist that includes digital and film photography that has not been manipulated to achieve results beyond what could be produced in a traditional dark room. Hand-colored photography and emulsion transfers are accepted in this category. Only the artist's original source material is acceptable. Work must be printed by the artist or under the artist's supervision in limited editions no greater than 300 ***inclusive of all sizes***, properly signed and numbered on archival quality materials *(see description above). Signage of an overtly commercial nature listing the availability of numerous sizes, print surfaces and/or framing options is prohibited.

PRINTMAKING

Two-dimensional printmaking is a transfer process of producing original art, usually in multiples. Printed original works are hand manipulated by the artist using etching, engraving, silk-screening, stone and plate lithography, linoleum block or woodcut, etc., which have been properly signed and numbered as a limited edition no greater than 300 using archival quality materials *(see description above).

SCULPTURE

Three-dimensional artwork primarily using a single medium, such as shaping figures in the round or in relief, chiseling marble, modeling clay, casting metal, or constructing from various materials.

Two-dimensional or three-dimensional artwork created by the artist through the forging, twisting, sculpting or fabricating of various unique metals. No forms of commercial, mass-produced, or enhanced items not made by the artist are permitted.

WATERCOLOR

Two-dimensional work created by the artist with watercolors using archival quality materials* (see description above).

WOOD

Two-dimensional or three-dimensional work created by the artist that is hand-manipulated, machine-worked, built-up, turned or carved in wood.

INELIGIBLE ART

- Crafts
- Leather
- Art supplies
- Soaps, candles
- Neon signs
- Houseware appliances
- Art featuring intellectual property (ie copyrighted material)
- AI created art

ART DEFINITIONS

- Machine-worked: created with the aid of machinery, complementary to fine hand-manipulated work.
- Machine-made: created with heavy machinery or the use of computer-aided processes/templates.
- Mass produced: art created in large quantities using heavy machines, computer-aided processes, or templates that removes the need for fine hand-tooling.
- Commercial: buy-sell art, bought from another artist and sold by the artist.
- Enhanced: purchased from another vendor and assembled or embellished by the artist.

*Mass produced, machine-made, commercial or art created by a large staff of people may not be considered for the festival. **All art must be created by the individual artist.** We encourage artists to be detailed about their process in their artist statement.*

ONLINE APPLICATION

RETURNING ARTISTS

- Artists who were juried into and exhibited at the Wickford Art Festival last year (2025) or the year prior (2024) are considered “returning artists”.
- If you are a returning artist, you are responsible for submitting your application with a payment of the booth fee only.
- Please submit new images of your work in order to be included on social media and marketing materials.
- Please submit an artist bio for marketing purposes.
- Once you are juried into the festival, you will be eligible as a returning artist for 3 consecutive years. If you skip or miss a festival within those consecutive 3 years for any reason, you will need to be re-juried.

NEW APPLICANTS

- All images will be evaluated for professional presentation, including the booth display image.
- The jury fee is non-refundable and will not be returned if you are not accepted.
- You must submit 4 images (requirements outlined below).
- You must submit a 200-500 word artist statement (requirements outlined below).

RETURNING ARTISTS WITH EXPIRED JURY TERM MUST BE RE-JURIED

- If the last time you juried into the festival was 2023 or earlier - you must be re-juried.
- Artists who juried into the festival in 2023 but did not exhibit in 2024 or 2025 must also be re-juried. (**You are juried in for 3 consecutive years.**)
- The jury fee is non-refundable and will not be returned if you are not accepted.
- You must submit 4 images: 3 of your work and 1 of your booth (requirements outlined below).
- You must submit a 200-500 word artist statement (requirements outlined below).

If the festival administration determines there is a reason an artist to be re-juried based on changes in festival prospectus, concerns with your booth display or quality of work, they reserve the right to ask that artist to submit work to be reviewed by the jury again even if it's not the artist's jury year.

You may exhibit a **maximum of two mediums in one booth**, if both categories are accepted in the festival. **Each medium requires a separate application**, each medium is **REQUIRED TO BE JURIED** with an **additional jury fee for each medium**.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a new or re-juried artist, you are required to complete the Artist Statement section of the application in order for your work to be reviewed by the jury committee. Applications submitted without a statement will be returned. Your full name should be included in the file's title.

In 200 - 500 words, explain the what, how, and why of your work, including your medium.

Please describe your fine art process, methods, materials, size and scale of pieces, etc. You may also include your education, experiences and influences in which your work is created. WAA encourages you to detail how you use your materials, equipment, resources, staff / assistants and anything else that you believe contributes to making you a Wickford Art Festival exhibitor.

If you are a returning artist, please apply with a statement (using the above guidelines) that WAA may use for marketing purposes, such as being featured in a social media post.

BOOTH ASSIGNMENT REQUESTS

You may request an area or booth location you have previously exhibited. Festival administration will do their best to honor your request, and planning for booth assignments work around these requests. However requests cannot be guaranteed. Space assignments are based on many variables including the total number of accepted artists per category, the number of returning artists per category, the spacing of categories throughout the festival , and special setup requirements. As we value the importance of your clients finding you in the same spot, the accessibility to the booth location, or the direction in which you face - the field layout may change over the years, the numbering of booths may change, the composition of the artists/mediums participating in the event also changes, and the final booth assignments will be decided by the festival administration.

IMAGES

You must submit four (4) images (and only 4 images):

- Three (3) current artwork images (with no visible signatures or initials), and

- One (1) booth display image* with your current artwork displayed. Your booth image should not have any identifying markers. That means no signatures, no booth cards, no signage, and no people or pets should be shown in the photo.
 - ****If you do not have a booth image that represents your presentation of work at an outdoor art festival, you may submit a 4th image of your work. You also must include in your artist bio/statement your plans for the type of tent you'll be using and describe your plan and design for presenting your work with clear detail.***
- Please upload 3 clear images of your work, labeled with the title, medium and year of completion. It is important that these images be as professional as possible, including any necessary editing, cropping, color correction or lighting adjustments. No signage, people or pets should be in the images.
- For help reducing the file size of photos, please visit tinypeg.com]
- Jury packages not following these guidelines will be marked incomplete.
- If you experience any issues with uploading images, please email the festival director: wickfordartfestival@gmail.com
- No printed photographs or slides will be accepted for jury.

JURYING COMMITTEE & ACCEPTANCE

Your application will be rejected if the above/below guidelines are not followed, and the jury fee will not be refunded. The Jury Committee consists of qualified members who review each application.

Committee members are selected from the Wickford Art Association's membership and respected leaders within the broader art community. Committee members have in-depth knowledge and experience in multiple art media. WAA uses a "blind" jurying process; artist names are not revealed when reviewing jury packages. Jurors select artists based on an adapted WAA Juried Artist Member Judging criteria which includes: originality, workmanship (knowledge of medium, elements of art, composition, use of space) and professional presentation. Jurors also consider the total show composition.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

All work displayed in the festival should be of the consistent, high caliber as indicated in your initially submitted images for jury. Only the medium for which you have been juried may be exhibited.

Upon acceptance, please read through the eligible art requirements listed above and make sure you only bring and sell work that falls within the requirements listed.

Please be respectful of your fellow exhibitors who abide by these guidelines. In an effort to maintain the high quality of fine artwork at the festival, we will be actively checking booths both days. You will be asked to remove any artwork, prints, excess browse bins, crafts, unjuried mediums, etc, that do not meet our festival specifications.

Artists must be present and set up at the festival for BOTH DAYS: Saturday July 11 and Sunday 12, 2025.

REFUNDS/CANCELLATIONS

You must contact the Festival Director **via email** at wickfordartfestival@gmail.com by the deadlines below in order to confirm your cancellation and request a refund.

- Artist's requests for a full refund will be honored until **April 30, 2026**.
 - If you must cancel and request a full refund, you will NOT be listed on the Festival site.
- Cancellations after **May 1, 2026**, for any reason by the artist, only half of your booth fee is refundable.
- Cancellations after **June 1, 2026**, for any reason by the artist, the full booth fee is non-refundable.

BOOTH REQUIREMENTS

Exhibitors will provide their own booth setups and should be prepared for inclement weather.

Single Non-Member Price \$400

Single WAA Member Price \$350

Double Non-Member Price \$800

Double WAA Member Price \$700

Tents must be white.

1. Displays must be sturdy, professional and tasteful.
 - Tables must be covered on all four sides to the ground.
 - Boxes and other materials must be stored out of sight.
 - Booths shall not exceed standard booth height or 10' x 10' ground dimensions*. (Any booth found to exceed these dimensions will be subject to relocation at the discretion of the WAF staff.)
 - Single tents over 100' square feet (bigger than 10'x10'), require a double booth space.
 - Booths must meet fire safety codes. Exhibitors must be prepared to show documentation (from manufacturer) thereof to Fire Officials upon request.

- **For Emergency Purposes, your Booth Number must be displayed clearly on the upper left hand side of the front of your booth, per the North Kingstown Fire Marshall.**
 - **You cannot use stakes in the ground to secure your tent;** you must use weights/sandbags to secure your booth in place. Artists who stake booths that damage the field's sprinkler system may incur a fee from the Town of North Kingstown. If you need water weights, access to the irrigation hose will be made available on Friday July 10th for set up.
2. **Only mediums which have been approved through the festival jury process may be displayed.**
Festival staff will ask exhibitors to remove non-juried mediums. Items or other products with your artwork on it to sell (i.e. bags, merchandise, pens, t-shirts, keychains, magnets, etc.) are NOT PERMITTED. (Free promotional giveaways are allowed). Notecards and books featuring the artist's work are allowed. Notecards cannot be commercially printed and be sold as singles, they need to be packaged featuring original artwork and limited edition prints on high quality materials.
 3. No commercial prints, multiple prints, multiple cast (or "buy-sell") objects.
 4. All reproductions must be signed and numbered editions of less than 300 and **ONLY** placed within **ONE browse bin or box.**
 5. Photographs must be produced with archival ink on archival paper, **signed and numbered to a maximum of 300 limited edition prints.**
 6. All 2-dimensional, hanging works must be framed or gallery wrapped.
 7. All booths will be attended by the artist. No agents permitted. Festival staff personnel will be available to booth-sit for exhibitors for brief times, as needed.
 8. Artists exhibiting at the festival are responsible to carry their own insurance for their artwork, personal belongings and booth. The WAA is not liable for damages, losses or theft during the festival.
 9. A Rhode Island Retail Sales (Tax) Permit is required (more information outlined on the artists information page on the website). Temporary permits will be offered on site.
 10. Exhibitors will maintain a clean booth and orderly surrounding area during the festival and leave the area clean at the end of the festival.
 11. **Non-compliance with requirements 1-11 will be grounds for dismissal from the current festival and subject to censure in future festival participation.**

**indicates conditions set by the North Kingstown Fire Dept. for issuing of 2026 WAF permit.*

TAX PERMITS

Although original and limited edition artwork is now exempt from sales tax (certain restrictions apply), the state of Rhode Island requires that every artist has a Temporary or Annual Retail Sales Permit.

- Temporary Retail Sales Permits may be acquired onsite at the Festival Registration. The 4 copies will be emailed to each artist so permits can be pre-filled prior to the set up.
- There is **no charge** for a Temporary Permit.
- Annual Permits may be acquired through the State of Rhode Island free of charge (see our Website for the button and link) prior to the festival.
- Wickford Art Association is **required** to keep a copy of your permit on file. If an artist has an Annual Permit and a Certificate of Exemption, please submit a current copy of each document with this application (preferred) or bring a hard copy to festival registration.
- The Town of North Kingstown requires artist's Date of Birth (requested on festival application)

_REVISED 12/25