

2026 Plein Aire Affair June 5, 6, 7 Murphy, NC

Call to Artists

Application Deadline: June 1

Overview: Valley River Arts Guild at The Murphy Art Center invites artists, both painters and photographers, of all skill levels and media to capture the town charm of Murphy, North Carolina and the Appalachian beauty of Cherokee County during our 1st Annual "Plein Aire Affair". This multi-day event celebrates the tradition of creating art outdoors, culminating in a public exhibition and sale of plein aire works at the Murphy Art Center. Artists will have the opportunity to work amidst historic downtown streets, the Murphy River Walk, mountain vistas and waterfalls, and lakes, vineyards and forests. Artists should be prepared for rain or sun.

Eligibility:

Open to: All artists 16 years and older working in any art medium.

Originality: All works must be painted or photographed outdoors within the designated boundaries and timeframes.

Submissions: Painters may submit up to five framed works or unframed wrapped canvases with painted edges for hanging in the final exhibition at the Murphy Art Center. Photographers may submit five works on any medium. At least one submission for each participant should focus on a subject in downtown Murphy, including the River Walk. Framed or unframed size may not exceed 36" on longest side. All artworks must have hanging wire for gallery system.

Event Schedule:

Check-In for Painters & Photographers: June 5 & June 6, 8AM-10AM, Murphy Art Center, 12 Peachtree Street, Murphy.

Canvas Stamping: *All painting surfaces must be stamped during registration and before work begins.*

Continental breakfast, water & snacks: available June 5 & 6 during check-in.

Painting & Photo Days: Friday June 5, Saturday June 6, Sunday June 7.

Delivery of Paintings: Deliver to the Murphy Art Center **no** later than June 7, 12 noon.

Delivery of Photographs: Photo Exhibit with no additional entry fee to be scheduled at a later date to be announced.

Exhibition & Sale of Plein Aire Paintings: June 7 through June 30, 2026

Opening reception: Sunday June 7, 3:00PM-5:00PM

Pickup of Paintings: July 1, 2026

Boundaries & Sites:

Maps provided at check-in. *Artists are free to paint anywhere within the town of Murphy and Cherokee County, NC as long as you do not impede traffic or pedestrians.* Artists are encouraged to explore the following:

- Downtown historic Murphy, Murphy River Walk trails, Konehete Park
- Murphy Train Depot, Murphy Farmers Market
- Cherokee Lake and Dam, dock and scenic trails
- Andrews Rest Area & Scenic View
- Persimmon Creek Campground
- Fern Crest Vineyards, Valley River Vineyards, Beaver Dam Vineyard, Nottely River Valley Vineyards
- McGuire's Millrace Farm, Two Crows Alpaca Farm
- Leatherwood Falls at Fires Creek Recreation Area

Awards & Prizes:

Judging for awards and prizes will occur Sunday afternoon. A total of **\$500** in awards and gift certificates will be presented at the reception on Sunday...

- **First Place:** \$200
- **Second Place:** \$150
- **Third Place:** \$100
- **Honorable Mention:** \$50

Juror: Keith Burgess, a fine artist and instructor working primarily in oil. He has received numerous one-man gallery shows, commissions, and awards. Keith has a passion for landscapes and plein aire painting. His works are representational and influenced by early impressionists. Keith resides in north Georgia.

Exhibition & Sales:

- **Commission:** Valley River Arts Guild will retain a 35% commission on all sales made during the show.
- **Framing:** All work must be professionally framed and wired for hanging. No saw-tooth hangers.
- **Works entered into the show** must be works completed during this event. Works may not be removed prior to June 30 unless sold by VRAG.
- **Pricing & Sales:** All submitted works must be for sale. Artists set their own prices. Sales tax added at time of sale and handled by VRAG. All sales are handled by VRAG and discounts are not permitted.
- **Artist Payment:** Artists will receive payment for sales within 2 weeks of show end date.

Registration Fees:

\$35 – early bird fee until May 1

\$40 – deadline June 1

\$20 – student fee (age 16-20)

\$50 – registration day of event

Contact Information:

For questions, please contact Joyce Clair, Coordinator at joyart1373@gmail.com or 210-268-3978

Follow us on social media for updates: face book page for Murphy Art Center or www.ValleyRiverArts.com

How to Apply:

To reserve your spot, please complete the attached registration form and make your check payable to Valley River Arts Guild, Inc. Please mail to Murphy Art Center, 12 Peachtree Street, Murphy, NC .28906

REGISTRATION FORM

2026 Plein Aire Affair

June 5, 6, 7

Murphy, N.C.

Print Name _____

Address _____

Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact _____

Check Amount _____ Check # _____

Days Attending _____

Your Media: _____

Disclaimers

The artist acknowledges and authorizes the use of photos taken throughout the event, which may include artists and their artwork, for promotional use by Valley River Arts Guild both online and in printed materials...

All reasonable care will be exercised in the handling and exhibiting of work. Sole liability for the art rests with the artist.

This activity may involve walking on uneven surfaces and other outdoor hazards. I assume all of the risks of participating in this event. I certify that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude my safe participation in this activity. All movement, walking, and driving of vehicles will be the responsibility of the artist.

I agree to all terms of the prospectus and I agree the Event Coordinator reserves the right to reject works that do not meet the criteria established in the prospectus.

I indemnify and hold harmless the Murphy Art Center, Valley River Arts Guild, and its board of directors, officers, guild members, volunteers, sponsors, activity holders and volunteers from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result of participation in this event, whether caused by negligence or otherwise.

I have read this document and I fully understand its content. I am aware that this is a release of liability.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: Murphy Art Center, 12 Peachtree Street, Murphy, NC 28906