



Fresh

From The Outer Banks

A Plein Air Event

September 2025

Dare Arts invites you to come celebrate this “open-air” style of painting. It’s a wonderful time of year to get outside, connect with other artists, and discover the beauty and charm of the Outer Banks.

Cover photo courtesy of artist Chip Hemingway





Artist Chip Hemingway painting en plein air

DATES, CHECK-IN, STAMPING

Check-In & Stamping: Check-In and Stamping for the event will be held during the following times in the Dare Arts Courtyard:

- Wednesday, September 3 from 4pm-7pm
- Thursday September 4 from 7am-7pm
- Friday, September 5 from 7am-12pm

Canvas Requirements:

- Canvases must not exceed 24x24.
- Bring your own canvas(es) to the welcome tent in the Dare Arts Courtyard in downtown Manteo for stamping.
- For dark-colored surfaces, please paint a white patch on the back to provide a legible stamping area.
- **ALL SURFACES MUST BE STAMPED BEFORE PAINTING.**

Artist Social Hour: Artists are welcome to join us for a social hour at 6pm on Wednesday, September 3 in the Dare Arts Courtroom Gallery.

Painting Dates: The event will take place Thursday, September 4 and Friday, September 5. All artworks must be turned in no later than 3pm on Friday, September 5 for the exhibition and judging.

Opening Reception & Show Dates: Join us for the opening reception, sponsored by the Don & Catharine Bryan Cultural Series, on Friday, September 5 from 6-8pm at Dare Arts. The show will remain open during normal gallery hours from September 5-26.

Artwork Pick-Up: Artwork should be picked up on Saturday, September 27 between 10am and 4pm. Artwork remaining after pick-up will be considered a donation to Dare Arts Benefit Auction, The Great Art Heist. Artists may not remove entries before the exhibition closes.

ELIGIBILITY & GUIDELINES

Registration & Entry Fees: The first 100 artists to register will be accepted. Registration is available online at DareArts.org/fresh or by calling the Dare Arts Gallery at (252) 473-5558. Dare Arts member entry fee is \$60 and non-member entry fee is \$70. Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Must be 18 years or older to register and participate.

Artwork Submission & Sales: All artists registered for this event must display in the *Fresh From The Outer Banks* exhibition in the Dare Arts Courtroom Gallery. Each artist may submit up to 2 pieces completed "en plein air" over the course of the event. Mediums may include oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, gouache and pencil. Artworks cannot exceed 24"x24" and must be signed by the artist and presentation-ready. Pieces must be framed (unless having no frame is essential to the piece) and securely wired for hanging—no sawtooth hangers, please. All artwork must be turned into Dare Arts no later than 3pm on Friday, September 5. Dare Arts check-in stamp must be visible on all artwork for the exhibition.

Artwork will be disqualified for judging if the artist is found using an iPad or photos on their easel, painting outside the boundaries, or intentionally impeding the sightline of another artist.

All artwork must be for sale. Selling price should include a 40% commission retained by Dare Arts. Artist payments will be mailed by the 15th of October. Dare Arts reserves the right to photograph the entries for publicity purposes. Dare Arts reserves the right to refuse any entry.

Liability: Artists are fully responsible for the security, care and safety of themselves and their artwork during this event. While the best possible care will be exercised in the handling of works, neither the Gallery, their employees and volunteers, nor the sponsoring agencies shall be held responsible for loss or damage from fire, theft, vandalism, or any other cause. Artists assume all risks of participating in any and all activities associated with the *Fresh From The Outer Banks Plein Air* Event. Registration to this event shall imply an agreement by the artist to the conditions set forth in the prospectus.

SPONSORSHIPS AND AWARDS

Sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring one of the *Fresh from the Outer Banks*, a *Plein Air Event* awards in 2025 - both businesses and individuals are encouraged to support an award. Each of our award sponsors is recognized widely in our community:

- Logo on signage at the Dare Arts Gallery
- Logo or name recognition with award ribbon
- Press releases and media coverage
- Posters in high traffic locations
- Dare Arts website and social media

Please contact Executive Director Jessica Sands at DareArtsInfo@gmail.com or (252) 473-5558 to sponsor an award.

Awards

Dare Arts will present the following awards:

- Best In Show: \$500
- Excellence Awards (2): \$250 each
- Honorable Mentions (4): \$100 each
- People's Choice: \$250 (selected by public ballot during the opening reception)

Artwork by John Silver



BOUNDARIES & LOCATIONS

The Outer Banks is 110 miles of shoreline stretching from Duck to Hatteras Village. Between the beautiful Atlantic Ocean and Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds there are many places to get inspired.

All *Fresh from the Outer Banks* participants must be painting within this region, also known as Dare County. Please reference the "Suggested Locations by Subject Matter" list provided for guidance and inspiration on where to create within these perimeters.



WEATHER CLAUSE

Dare Arts believes all weather can be good for painting, and that the elements can create different beauty and light. We will make every effort to proceed as planned. However, the event may be rescheduled or canceled due to inclement severe weather conditions that pose a safety risk to participants, staff, or visitors. Please regularly check your emails leading up the event for the most current information.



OUR JUDGE: FEN RASCOE

Fen Rascoe is an award-winning American Impressionist from the town of Windsor, NC. He is represented by ArtSource Fine Art in Raleigh, NC and City Art Gallery in Greenville, NC. His work can also be found in Chowan Arts Council in Edenton, NC.

Whether painting in Plein Air or in the studio, he strives to simplify his subjects into a non-rendered and uncomplicated three dimensional artistic tales that allow the viewer to actively jump in and become part of the experience. He paints Alla Prima or “wet-on-wet” in oil all in one session and his style could be considered Contemporary Impressionism.

In the past year, Fen has been invited to be on the faculty of the Annual Plein Air Convention and Expo (PACE), juried into North Carolina Plein Air Festival, and featured in the Spring 2024 *Virginia Sportsman Magazine*. His work was published twice in Plein Air Magazine and he was awarded the Judge’s Choice Award in Suffolk Plein Air. He won 3rd place in Plein Air Abingdon this past October and his painting titled “Buckhorn Bales” was juried into the 5th Annual American Impressionist Society Online Exhibition.

ABOUT PLEIN AIR

The Plein Air Painting Movement, which gained prominence in the mid-19th century France, refers to the practice of painting landscapes directly outdoors, rather than in a studio.

This approach emphasizes capturing the natural light, colors, and atmospheric effects in real-time. It emerged with the rise of the French Barbizon School in the 1830s and was later popularized by Impressionist artists like Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Camille Pissarro.

Plein air painting helped shift art from idealized, studio-bound representations toward more spontaneous and immediate depictions of nature, influencing modern art movements significantly. The artistic movement quickly gained popularity and remains a favored painting style today.

FEN RASCOE WORKSHOP



Artwork by Fen Rascoe

Award-winning American Impressionist Fen Rascoe will be offering a two-day Plein Air Workshop at Dare Arts on Tuesday, September 2 and Wednesday, September 3 prior to the *Fresh from the Outer Banks* event.

This workshop is not included as part of the *Fresh from the Outer Banks* event. To register, please visit Fen’s website directly at fenrascoe.com.



Fresh from the Outer Banks Plein Air Event is hosted by Dare Arts, 300 Queen Elizabeth Ave, Manteo, NC 27954. To become a member or volunteer with our organization, please call Dare Arts at (252) 473-5558 or visit DareArts.org.