

Seacoast Artist Association

2026 Theme Shows

Theme Show	Drop Off	Pick Up
January: Winterscapes	January 3rd	January 31st
February: Beyond the Surface	January 31st	February 28th
March: Whispers of Color	February 28th	March 28th
April: I Can Haiku, Can You?	March 28th	April 25th
May: In Plein Air	April 25th	May 30th
June: In Bloom	May 30th	June 27th
July: Coastal Canvas	June 27th	July 25th
August: Beyond the Postcard	July 25th	August 29th
September: Nocturne	August 29th	September 26th
October: Faces & Figures	September 26th	October 31st
Nov/Dec: Small Art, Big Ideas	October 31st	January 2nd

How to Participate

Submission: Email your submission by Thursday prior to the drop off date to theshowsubmissions@seacoartist.org. Please Include: TITLE, MEDIUM, PRICE, ARTIST NAME, and PHONE NUMBER.

Drop off and Pick up: Bring your work to the gallery before 2 pm on the drop off date for each exhibit. Please include your completed entry form (forms are located at the gallery and on our website seacoartist.org). All work must be picked up on the pick up date for the exhibit. *Theme Shows are open to members and non-members alike.*

Fee for SAA members: \$10.00 per piece up to two pieces, **non-members:** \$20.00 per piece up to two pieces. Pieces OVER 16"x20" up to 22"x26" INCLUDING FRAME \$20.00/\$40.00. You may enter one over-size and one 16"x20" or smaller. **Please note:** For the Nov/Dec show, artwork must be priced at \$150 and under and sized 12"x12" or smaller framed. Artist may submit two entries 12"x12" or smaller, one entry can consist of 3 smaller works 5"x7" or smaller framed at the same price. *SAA receives 25% commission on all sales.*

Presentation and Framing

We ask that work fits the theme for the month. It must be framed in a professional manner complete with a wire hanger, and properly labeled on the back with artist, title, medium, and price. For a more consistent appearance on the wall, we recommend frames of brown, black, gold, or silver. For more information about our presentation and framing guidelines please visit seacoartist.org.



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SAA Receptions

Join us on the second Friday of each month as the SAA hosts opening receptions from 5-7pm. They are open to the public so all are welcome! It's the perfect time to meet many of the artists on exhibit and refreshments are always served.

Theme Show Awards

Many of our monthly theme shows offer **Best in Show** and **People's Choice Awards**! Different factors are considered when awarding Best in Show such as originality, expertise in a specific medium, presentation, subject matter, design, relevance to the stated theme and whether the piece is an original work of art. Keep in mind that for non-photography entries, reproductions such as giclée prints, prints that are not numbered (and are not hand pulled) and other reproductions are not considered for Best in Show. However, all art hanging in the show is eligible for the People's Choice Award. *The Best in Show winner will be awarded a free entry in the next Theme Show of the winner's choosing!*

Theme Shows are subject to change. For the most up to date information, please visit our website seacoartist.org or visit us on Facebook.

2026

Theme Shows

at the

Seacoast Artist Association



Join us for a different theme show each month at the SAA Gallery!

130 Water St., Exeter, NH
603-778-8856 / seacoartist.org

The SAA is a community-active group interested in fostering the arts in our area. We welcome both members and non-members to participate in our Theme Shows.



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2026 Theme Show Descriptions

January: *Winterscapes* *Black & White*

"Black and white is not a lesser color image - it is, in many ways, more powerful. It gets to the core of what is important in an image, leaving behind the distractions of color." - David Präkel. This theme uses black and white photography or artwork to evoke the cold, serene beauty of winter images. Feel free to use your own definition of "winter".



February: *Beyond the Surface* *Mixed Media*

"Creativity takes courage." - Henri Matisse. Mixed media art is all about pushing boundaries and stepping into the unknown. Whether you're layering paint over collage elements, experimenting with textures, or trying unconventional color palettes, creativity demands courage. Explore layers in your mixed media piece and enjoy a deeper engagement with your art.

March: *Whispers of Color* *Abstract Creations*

"A painting to me is primarily a verb, not a noun, an event first and only secondarily an image." - Elaine de Kooning. Abstract art is more than layers of paint - it's a story told through hues, textures, and light. Whether you see an ocean, a storm, or simply a dance of colors, whispers of color remind you that beauty often lies beneath the surface.

April: *I Can Haiku, Can You?* *Celebrating Poetry Month*

You probably remember from high school English class that a haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. It follows a simple 5/7/5 pattern of syllables, so there are a total of three short lines. In honor of Poetry Month, we'd like you to write or find a haiku and create to it or make a piece of art and write a haiku to describe it! It does not have to rhyme and it does not have to make sense to anyone but you! We will post your haiku with your work.

May: *En Plein Air* *In the Open Air*



"Everything that is painted directly and on the spot always has strength, a power, and a vivacity of touch one cannot recover in the studio... Three strokes of the brush in front of nature are worth more than two

days of work at the easel." - Eugène Boudin. Bring us what you have been working on as the weather warms or even something you created last year!

June: *In Bloom, Flowers*

"I must have flowers, always, and always." - Claude Monet. Because these fragile masterpieces of nature evoke such profound emotion, they have provided infinite inspirations for artists for centuries.

July: *Coastal Canvas* *The Natural Beauty of the Seacoast*



"At the beach - time you enjoyed wasting, is not wasted." - T. S. Eliot. We are lucky to live amidst the nature that surrounds us here on the Seacoast. What is your favorite place or favorite wildlife?

August: *Beyond the Postcard* *Local Color*

"Art is the only way to run away without leaving home." - Twyla Tharp. Stay local and show your neighbors and our tourists what we love about our home. There is enough to paint here to last a lifetime.

September: *Nocturne* *Evening or Nighttime*

"I often think that the night is more alive and more richly colored than the day." - Vincent Van Gogh. Van Gogh relied more so on emotion than observation. Instead of blacks and grays, he used a patchwork of vibrant blues and yellows. Show us a composition inspired by, or evocative of, the night.



October: *Faces & Figures*

"You would hardly believe how difficult it is to place a figure alone on a canvas, and to concentrate all the interest on this single and unique figure and still keep it living and real." - Edouard Manet. We invite you to submit your art and photography depicting the human form - both faces & figures.

November/December: *Small Art, Big Ideas*

Show us the beauty and skill of your small-scale creations, by showcasing how smaller works can hold immense depth and meaning.

Artwork is priced at \$150 and under, and size is no larger than 12"x12" framed. Artist may submit two entries under 12"x12", one entry can consist of 3 smaller works under 5"x7" framed at the same price.



*We look forward to seeing you
at our monthly Theme Shows!
We welcome both members and
non-members to participate.*

Image Credits from SAA 2025 Theme Shows: Jan Best in Show, Kensington Social Library, Dave Saums / May People's Choice, Squamscott River Serenity, Robert Dumas / Jul People's Choice, Cove at Fort Foster, Robert Hamilton / Jan People's Choice, Sunrise and Moonset at Mount Washington, Kevin Talbot / 2024 Dec Entry, In a Winter Wood, Barbara McGrath