

Seacoast Artist Association

2023 Monthly Theme Show Descriptions

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

January: Winter Frost

Winter brings a special beauty with her fragile filigree of frost sketched on our bedroom windows each morning. Winter's art is everywhere in New England; on oak leaves, the skating pond, and every windshield. We are encased in a fleeting beauty that lasts until the sun or the heater spreads its warmth and this brief magic melts away. Share with us your winter wonder images of frost or fantasy, all fleeting and beautiful.

February: Let Me Show You What I love

Do you remember when you first understood love? Do you remember your first love? Do you remember realizing that love is more than a stolen kiss, but a passion for beauty and a feeling of tenderness for people, places, and things? If you dare to share, we'd love to see what or whom you love. After all, sharing what we love is the sweetest gift of all.

March: Shadows and Light

If it wasn't for the shadows we wouldn't have the light. Look around at the darkest darks and the lightest lights. The month of March offers gentle grey skies, shadows of the still bare tree branches, and dark earth emerging from a deep bright snow cover. The values of our vision live in every corner. What are your shadows, your light?

April: Pure Poetry

The late poet Mary Oliver painted exquisite beauty with her humble words. From *A Thousand Mornings*: "Sometimes I spend all day trying to count leaves on a single tree. To do this I have to climb branch by branch and write down the numbers in a little book. So I suppose, from their point of view, it's reasonable that my friends say: what foolishness! She's got her head in the clouds again!"

In honor of National Poetry Month, we're *painting* the words of the wonder all around us. Share an image that comes to mind from your favorite poem, create your own "poem" with your medium, or just surprise us with your interpretation of words you love! If you like, please include your "words of inspiration" with your work for us to share.

May: In Full Bloom

We are reborn each spring. Not just us, but all life around us. The perennials in our gardens; fuchsia peonies, fragrant lilacs and lily of the valley, and grass, lush and green under our bare feet, breathing life into our world. Where does your eye gaze, what do you see in this lovely month of May? We've waited all winter for gardens and fields in full bloom. And now it's here!

June: Sunrise, Sunset and Moonlit Eves

We count on it. A chilly early sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean, later a cadmium orange sun calmly setting behind grand mountains and the tops of evergreen trees. And then, late at night we stand on our back porch or look up from our Adirondack chair by the fire and feel the vast beauty of the universe over our heads. A sky full of uncut diamonds, tossed down to us by the gods. Share with us your celestial wonder!

July: The Great Outdoors

Don't feed the bears. Do hike the White Mountains, all the way above the tree line. Do build sand castles, dig holes to China, catch fireflies in jars, pitch a tent in the woods, take a boat ride to Star Island and climb on the rocks. Do get outside and capture the summer of our gorgeous land. Just remember, don't poke a porcupine!

August: By the Sea

Whether your "By the Sea" art is of Hampton beach filled with striped umbrellas and little kids in bathing suits or a boat ride through dark and white-capped waters, we want to see your vision of our wonderful seaside. The joy and energy that lives by the sea never fail to thrill. As artists, we brighten the day by sharing a bit of this beauty from our front-seat view of our sea.

September: Mystery Kits

It's time for our Annual Mystery Kits! Kits are assembled by members of the SAA and sold at the gallery a few months before the October exhibit. Each kit contains the same supplies. You may use as many of these supplies including the box and packaging as your creation demands. The Mystery Kit Project is a key fundraiser for the SAA Scholarship program. Each year area high school seniors, planning to further their education in the arts, may apply to be awarded a scholarship. All proceeds from this project go directly into the scholarship fund.

October: Keeping it Local

We love where we live! Capture a bit of beauty from the world right in front of you. The high school rowers on the Piscataqua River, the yellow ochre grasses bending with the breeze, the farms and shops and walking paths that are everywhere in New Hampshire. Let's show off our town and surrounding areas with original art for others to love too!

Nov/Dec: Big Gifts Come in Small Packages

In the spirit of giving we challenge our artists to create beautiful yet affordable works no more than \$100 that can become the perfect holiday gift for art lovers. Your art may be of any subject, but must be 11"x14" or smaller **including frame** and priced \$100 or less. Three small works, 5"x7" or less **including frame** may be combined as one submission. Thank you and Happy Holidays to all!