

# Fresh

A Plein Air Event

## September 2-4, 2026

2025 Best in Show Winner "Wanchese Harbor" by artist Chip Hemingway



*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.*





Artist Rhonda Bates painting en plein air during the 2025 Fresh event.

## ELIGIBILITY & GUIDELINES

**Registration & Entry Fees:** The first 75 artists to register will be accepted. Registration is available online at [DareArts.org/fresh](http://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 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" (framed or unframed) 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. All artwork must be turned into Dare Arts no later than 2pm on Friday, September 4. 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.

## DATES, CHECK-IN, STAMPING

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

- **Wednesday, September 2 from 11am-5pm**
- **Thursday September 3 from 10am-5pm**
- **Friday, September 4 from 10am-12pm**

### Canvas Requirements:

- Canvases must not exceed 24x24.
- Bring your own canvas(es) to Dare Arts 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.**

**Painting Dates:** The painting timeframe runs from Wednesday, September 2 at 11am through Friday, September 4 at 2pm. All artworks must be turned in **no later than 2pm** on Friday, September 4 for the exhibition and judging.

### Receptions & Show Dates:

- **Welcome Reception: Wednesday, September 2 from 4:30-6pm.** Participating artists are invited to join us for a welcome reception in the Dare Arts Courtroom Gallery.
- **Artist Reception: Friday, September 4 from 5pm-6pm.** Open to participating artists with badge only, this reception will have the announcement of awards and a few words from our judge.
- **Opening Reception: Friday, September 4 from 6pm-8pm.** Following the artist reception the show will open to the public at 6pm in conjunction with downtown Manteo's First Friday.
- **Show Dates: September 5-25.** The show will remain open during normal gallery hours.

**Artwork Pick-Up:** Artwork should be picked up on Saturday, September 26 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.

# SPONSORSHIPS AND AWARDS

## Sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring one of the Fresh- A Plein Air Event awards in 2026 - both businesses and individuals are encouraged to support an award. Each of our award sponsors is recognized widely in our community with the items listed below:

- 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](mailto: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)



2025 Honorable Mention "Morning Surf" by Debra Dartez.

# 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 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.



Artist Eleanor Cox painting en plein air during the 2025 event.

## 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: JEREMY SAMS

Award-winning representational artist Jeremy Sams from Archdale, NC will judge Fresh - A Plein Air Event in 2026.

His primary subject matter is landscapes while working in acrylics. He also loves the challenge of portraits and his work varies in size from just a few square inches to murals measuring upward of 40'x60'.

His artistic growth took on a new form in 2011 when he was introduced to painting en plein air. Jeremy's personal inspirations come mostly from the play of light and atmosphere and their effects on objects and landscapes. His most favorite areas of subject matter are the rolling hills and mountains of North Carolina along with its waterways, and special array of trees and meadows.

Jeremy was a featured artist in the February-March 2017 issue of "Plein Air Magazine" and also "Modern Impressionism" magazine. Jeremy is currently a member of the Plein Air Painters of the Southeast and North Carolina Plein Air Painters and also the founder of the Fellowship of Plein Air Painters.

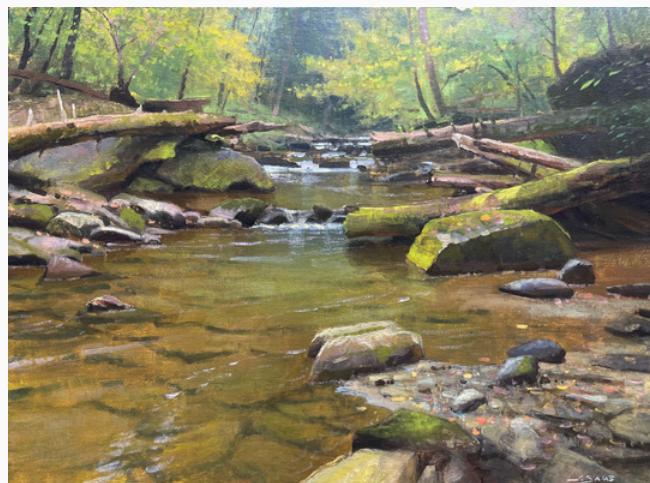


## ABOUT PLEIN AIR

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.



"At Rest" by Jeremy Sams

## WORKSHOP

The week of the plein air event, Jeremy will also be teaching a workshop on the Outer Banks. In this workshop, participants will explore the foundational principles of creating a successful plein air painting through composition, values, atmosphere and the effects of light. Registration will be on Jeremy's website- [JeremySams.com](http://JeremySams.com).



Fresh - A 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](http://DareArts.org).