

Hilton Head Island Plein Air Paint Out

Artist Rules & Guidelines (April 9–11, 2026)

AT-A-GLANCE	
Paint Out Painting Days	Thu–Fri, April 9–10, 2026 (en plein air, from life)
Wet Paint Gallery Drop-Off	Thu–Fri, April 9–10 10:00 AM–03:00 PM (Art League Gallery)
Judging Delivery Deadline	Fri, April 10 Eligible work due by 02:00 PM for awards consideration
Awards Reception	Fri, April 10, 2026 05:00–07:00 PM Judge: Catherine Hillis
Public Viewing	Through 04:00 PM Saturday (April 11)
Pick-Up Deadline	Immediately after Awards Reception or no later than 04:30 PM Saturday (April 11)
Sales Commission	If priced for sale, Art League Gallery retains a 40% commission
Minimum Pricing	Wet Paint Gallery: \$400 minimum if offered for sale Quick Draw: \$200 minimum if offered for sale
Stamping/Check-In	Stamping begins at 08:00 AM on April 9 at Art League Gallery Required before painting eligible work Stamped surfaces only Waiver collected at stamping
Submission Limit	Up to two (2) pieces per artist for Wet Paint Gallery display and awards
Optional Quick Draw (Sat, April 11)	08:00–09:00 AM check-in/stamp 09:00–11:00 AM paint 11:00 AM–12:00 PM turn-in/setup 12:00–12:30 PM judging/awards 12:30–01:00 PM sale 01:00 PM pickup \$25 add-on Judge: Carol Iglesias

These rules ensure fairness, safety, and a smooth experience for all artists. Participation in the event constitutes acceptance of these rules.

1) Eligibility, Registration & Check-In

- Registration is required for all artists and must be completed prior to painting in the event.
- Check-in and surface stamping is mandatory before beginning any event-eligible artwork.
- A signed waiver will be collected at stamping/check-in.
- Stamping/check-in takes place at Art League Gallery during designated check-in hours. Only surfaces stamped by staff are eligible for Wet Paint Gallery display and for judging/awards.
- Artists must wear or carry event credentials (provided name badge) while painting.

Fees: Paint Out \$75 public / \$50 ALHH members. Optional Quick Draw add-on \$25 (limited spots).

2) Painting Dates & Eligible Work

- Paint Out painting days are Thursday–Friday, April 9–10, 2026.
- Only work begun and completed on-site during the official event timeframe is eligible for judging and awards.

- All eligible work must be done en plein air—outside, from life, in natural lighting—during the event timeframe. Interiors are permitted only in the event of difficult weather.
- To be clear: plein air is plein air. Continuing work on a painting away from the motif is outside the intent of this event and may impact eligibility for awards.
- Artwork must be two-dimensional.
- Acceptable media include oils, acrylics, watercolor, gouache, ink, mixed media, and pastels.

3) Approved Locations & On-Site Conduct

- Artists must paint at approved locations provided by the event. Painting outside approved locations may be disqualified.
- Respect private property and posted signage. Do not block entrances, walkways, or traffic.
- If asked to move by property staff/security, comply immediately and select another approved location.
- Artists are responsible for personal safety, weather preparedness, hydration, and sun protection.

4) Acceptable Methods & Equipment

- No AI-generated imagery.
- No projection, tracing, or transfer (including grids transferred from printed photos).
- No digital painting or printing as a primary method.
- Easels, pochade boxes, umbrellas, and lightweight tables are allowed.
- Follow Leave No Trace practices and remove all trash.
- You may set up your easel and prepare materials before you begin, but you may not place any marks on the stamped surface until the painting window begins.

5) References & Photographs

- Your own on-site reference photos taken during the event may be used only as supplemental reference, unless otherwise specified by event staff.
- Using another person's photo reference or copyrighted reference material is prohibited.

6) Surface Requirements, Size & Stamping

- Artists may stamp an unlimited number of canvases/boards/papers but will submit only up to two (2) pieces for Wet Paint Gallery display and awards.
- Surfaces must be free of images prior to stamping; a solid base coat/toned ground is allowed.
- Only stamped surfaces are eligible for Wet Paint Gallery display and for awards consideration.
- Paper must be a single sheet securely mounted or otherwise presentation-ready; pads/blocks that obscure stamping are not eligible.
- Maximum size: 36 inches on the longest dimension (including frame). All work must be safely manageable for gallery handling and display.

7) Wet Paint Gallery: Drop-Off, Judging, Display & Pick-Up

After painting en plein air during the Hilton Head Island Plein Air Paint Out (April 9–10, 2026), artists are invited to present up to two finished works at Art League Gallery for our Wet Paint Gallery public display. Pieces may be offered for sale at the artist's discretion. If priced for sale, Art League Gallery will retain a 40% commission.

To be included in judging and awards consideration, eligible paintings must be delivered to Art League Gallery no later than **02:00 PM on Friday, April 10**.

Drop-Off Hours: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (April 9–11) from 10:00 AM–04:00 PM at Art League Gallery.

Public Viewing: Artists may leave submitted work on display for public viewing through **04:00 PM on Saturday, April 11**.

Pick-Up: Any unsold work may be picked up immediately following the Awards Reception or no later than **05:00 PM on Saturday.**

Submission Requirements:

- Work must be properly labeled with: Artist Name, Title, Medium, Size, Price (or NFS), and Contact.
- Work must be dry enough to handle safely or appropriately framed/contained for display.
- All submitted work must be ready to hang: wired for hanging and framed with an open back so the festival stamp on the back can be viewed. Unframed gallery wraps will be accepted.
- The Art League reserves the right to decline work that is unsafe to handle, improperly labeled, not ready to hang, or not compliant with event rules.

8) Sales, Pricing, Minimums & Commission

- Artists may choose to offer submitted work for sale, or mark work as NFS (not for sale).
- If a piece is offered for sale and displayed in the Wet Paint Gallery sale area, a price is required and must be at least \$400.
- If a piece is offered for sale during the Quick Draw public sale window, a price is required and must be at least \$200.
- If priced for sale, Art League Gallery retains a 40% commission; the artist will receive the remainder.
- All sales are processed through Art League Gallery; artists may not conduct independent sales on-site.
- Sold works must remain on display until designated release time unless otherwise approved.

9) Awards & Judging

- Awards Reception: Friday, April 10, 2026 | 05:00–07:00 PM at Art League Gallery. Judge: Catherine Hillis.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Awards eligibility requires full compliance with stamping, location rules, deadlines, and submission requirements, including the 03:00 PM Friday delivery deadline.

10) Optional Quick Draw (Shelter Cove Marina)

- Optional Quick Draw add-on fee: \$25 (limited spots).
- Quick Draw location: Shelter Cove Marina. Judge: Carol Iglesias.

Quick Draw Schedule:

- 08:00–09:00 AM | Check-in & stamping
- 09:00–11:00 AM | Paint (brush down at 11:00 AM)
- 11:00 AM–12:00 PM | Turn-in & setup for judging/sale (must be ready to display)
- 12:00–12:30 PM | Judging & awards
- 12:30–01:00 PM | Public viewing & sale window
- 01:00 PM | Pickup
- Work must be created entirely within the Quick Draw painting window and within the designated Quick Draw area. Late submissions are not eligible for Quick Draw judging.

11) Disqualification & Enforcement

- Failure to check in/stamp surfaces.
- Painting outside approved locations (Paint Out) or designated area (Quick Draw).
- Pre-painting or adding studio work before judging.
- Use of prohibited methods (projection, tracing, printing, AI-generated elements).

- Misconduct, unsafe behavior, or failure to follow staff instructions.
- Missing any required submission or check-in deadlines.

12) Liability, Waiver & Permissions

- Artists participate at their own risk and are responsible for their own equipment and materials.
- A signed waiver will be collected at stamping/check-in.
- By participating, artists grant Art League of Hilton Head permission to photograph and use images of artists and artwork for event promotion (credit provided when feasible).

13) Key Reminders

- Stamp first. Paint second.
- Paint only at approved locations.
- For awards consideration, deliver eligible work by 03:00 PM Friday.
- Wet Paint Gallery hours are Thu–Sat, 10:00 AM–04:00 PM; public viewing runs through 04:00 PM Saturday.
- Pick up unsold work after the Awards Reception or by 05:00 PM Saturday.

Questions? Contact: 843.681.5060 | info@artleaguehi.org | Art League Gallery: 14 Shelter Cove Lane, Hilton Head