

PLEIN AIR EASTON TRIP PLANNER

Your guide to planning your trip to experience the country's most successful outdoor painting competition and festival.

PLEIN AIR EASTON, MD



At the Avalon Foundation, we answer many questions about our Plein Air Easton Competition and Arts Festival, but the most frequent are these. **WHAT IS PLEIN AIR? How do I know what to see and do during the festival?**

The first one is easy, really. *En plein air* simply means “in the open air” and refers to a type of outdoor impressionistic painting that became popular in 19th century France. Famous plein air painters include Monet, Sisley, Renoir, and Cezanne.

PLEIN AIR art has experienced a renaissance in recent years, with festivals and competitions popping up everywhere. We recognized the trend early and launched Plein Air Easton in 2005. What started as a modest event has grown to be one of the country's most successful outdoor painting competitions. Artists set up their easels and paint outdoor scenes right where they find inspiration—on roadsides, in cornfields, at water's edge.

Not only are you welcome to observe Plein Air Easton's 58 competition artists as they work, you can also experience first-hand the places that inspire such creativity. You can even bring your own paints and brushes and test your skill next to the world's best plein air painters.

The extensive programming we offer at Plein Air Easton fills an entire guide. But planning a trip is easy, and it largely depends on how much time you have to spend with us. We've broken it down for you like this: a quick overnight stay, an elegant weekend stay, and the ultimate plein air weekend. Read on for recommendations!



A Quick Overnight

The **Tilghman Island Pre-Competition Paint Out, Exhibition and Sale** on July 11 is perfect for those looking for an introduction to Talbot County and plein air painting. This practice-day event is optional for artists, but most of our competition painters are drawn to this wonderfully authentic Eastern Shore watermen's village, located just 23 miles from the **Avalon Theatre** in downtown Easton.

Book a room at the **Wylder Hotel** and spend the day exploring this island community—fishing, sailing, relaxing around the pool. You're sure to find plein air artists at work around every bend. The **Tilghman Waterman's Museum** is a great place to learn about the island's history and culture, and you can get an up-close view of bay critters at **Phillips Wharf Environmental Center**.

Enjoy a leisurely lunch at **Two If By Sea** or **Marker Five**, and be back at Wylder Hotel by 6 p.m. where the day's paintings will be displayed and sold. The highlight of the evening is the announcement of the Artists' Choice Award winner for the best painting of the day. You can even dine in the company of the competition artists at the hotel's **Bar Mambo**, overlooking beautiful Harris Creek.

Click on the highlighted names for more information.

INSIDER'S TIP:

Wylder Hotel Tilghman Island is offering a 5% discount to anyone who mentions PLEIN AIR when booking.

An Elegant Weekend Stay July 13-15

Don't miss the most elegant night of the summer as our competition painters head to Knightly, one of **Talbot County's** breathtaking waterfront estates, for our **Meet the Artists Party** on Saturday, July 13. Reserve your tickets now before they are gone.

This privately owned property features a Federal-style brick house built in 1820 by Maryland Governor Edward Lloyd V for his daughter, plus 3 acres of formal gardens and 42 acres of productive farm fields, fenced pastures, and ponds. Arrive early and watch as the artists put the finishing touches on paintings created at Knightly, then settle in and enjoy a lavish meal with the competition painters. There will also be an opportunity to take home an exquisite painting to commemorate your trip.



Click on the highlighted names for more information.

Before heading to the party, spend Saturday relaxing and exploring Talbot County. You'll quickly see why plein air painters from around the globe are drawn to the Maryland's Eastern Shore. Visit the **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum** in St. Michaels or book a sailing excursion aboard one of our fine sailing vessels. There's shopping and dining galore in **Easton** and **St. Michaels**, plus a range of outdoor activities.

Save Sunday for **Paint Oxford**. This tiny town has a huge personality and water on three sides. While other waterfront towns have succumbed to condos and glitz, **Oxford** has retained its colonial charm. In addition to fine inns and terrific restaurants, you'll find some of the country's best ice cream—so says TripAdvisor—at the **Scottish Highland Creamery**.

Artists should be easy to spot around town too. An exhibition and sale of the day's work at the Oxford Community Center is the perfect capstone to a perfect memorable art-filled weekend.

The Ultimate Plein Air Weekend July 19-21

The final weekend of Plein Air Easton truly is an art lover's extravaganza. Friday's festivities begin with a ticketed art demonstration by **Master Jove Wang** at 9 a.m. at the Avalon Theatre. During this rare opportunity to watch him create, Master Wang's interpreter will narrate as he paints a portrait of Tilghman Island waterman Johnny Kinnamon. The **Local Color** exhibition also opens Friday with an awards presentation at the **Tidewater Inn**. The show features a range of talented local artists and is open for visitors throughout the weekend.

Be sure to reserve your ticket for Friday evening's **Collectors Party**, where you'll be the first to see the competition paintings and attend the 2019 awards ceremony. A painting sells every 45 seconds for nearly 2 hours at this exciting event, so bring your wallet and get

INSIDER'S TIP:

Talbot County offers a wide range of lodging, from elegant hotels to historic inns to exquisite vacation homes. You can find a complete list of options at TourTalbot.org.



ready to take home a piece of history. As a ticket holder, you can even apply the equivalent of your ticket price to art purchases all weekend. **Plein Air Easton**'s crowning event takes place in two locations—the **Academy Art Museum** and the **Waterfowl Festival Building**, across the street from one another in downtown Easton.



Excitement fills the air on Saturday, July 20, when hundreds of painters converge on downtown Easton for the festival's **Quick Draw Competition and Sale**. Anyone with 10 bucks and a little ambition can enter this famous timed event. Participating artists have two hours, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., to create their best works—and all of this takes place in downtown Easton. When time's up, the artists line the street, gathering for an exhibition, sale, and awards ceremony on Harrison Street.



This is the perfect time to circle through the downtown galleries, pop in at the **PAE Information Center at the Avalon Theatre**, shop the **Artisans Marketplace** on Harrison Street, and search out any hidden gems you may have missed at the competition galleries at the Academy Art Museum and Waterfowl Building. Be sure to make dinner reservations early at one of Easton's downtown restaurants, then enjoy live music and dancing in the street at the **Tidewater Inn Concert Series**. Legendary painter **Raul Middleman** will also be speaking at a ticketed event, where he will show excerpts from an upcoming movie documenting his life.

Lines form early on Sunday as collectors vie to be the first to view the **Small Painting Sunday Exhibition and Sale** at the Waterfowl Building. All competition artists create a 6 in. x 8 in. painting for this event, which opens to the public at 10 a.m. Enjoy breakfast treats, coffee, mimosas, and Bloody Marys while you shop.

Young painters have a chance to shine with art stations for kids and the **PAE Next Generation Quick Draw** competition, exhibition and sale. And don't miss the **Judge's Talk** at 2 p.m. at the Waterfowl Building. This year's competition judge, **David Levy**, will explain the thought process behind his choice of winners. Levy served as president of the **Parsons School of Design** for more than 20 years and president of the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** in D.C. for another 15 years.

Bring Your Paints

Plein Air Easton is more than just an art show. It's a chance to learn and grow as a painter. We've packed the schedule with opportunities for artists of all skill levels to practice and pick up new techniques. Pack your paints and join us!

Click on the highlighted names for more information.

INSIDER'S TIP:

The Avalon Foundation staff and volunteers will store your Plein Air Easton purchases until Sunday when you're ready to pack up and head home.



Click on the highlighted names for more information.

- Make plans to attend one (or all) of the **Alumni Coffee & Conversation Series**, held Monday–Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Avalon Theatre. These educational talks feature artists who have participated in past Plein Air Easton competitions.
- Choose from more than **20 art demonstrations** and talks by your favorite artists at galleries around town and at the Avalon Theatre.
- Bring your paints and join the fun at Plein Air Easton's free **Nocturne Paint Out** in downtown Easton on Wednesday, July 17, at 8:30 p.m.
- **Score VIP tickets** to the Avalon Theatre and listen in as Deputy Director **Andrea Bayer** shares her behind-the-scenes stories from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. You can meet her in person at a reception at **Troika Gallery** directly following the talk.
- Nervous about your first **Quick Draw** competition? Hone your skills and **PAE Rehearse Quick Draw** on Thursday, July 18 and Friday, July 19 in downtown Easton. Then register for Saturday's official Quick Draw Competition. You may sell a painting or even win an award while showing off your new skills!



For the Kids

- Kids under 12 can get in on the action Saturday too. A **Children's Paint Out**, sponsored by the Country School, will be held on the Academy Art Museum lawn from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Budding artists shine on Sunday at Plein Air Easton. The **PAE Next Generation Quick Draw** competition takes place in downtown Easton at 10 a.m., where the next generation of painters can create and sell their work.
- The Avalon Foundation and Plein Air Easton offers **summer art camp** for budding artists during Plein Air Easton. For details on sign up, visit us at avalonfoundation.org.

Follow the Action

Our talented Avalon Foundation team live streams the festival's events on **Facebook** and the **Mid-Shore Community Foundation's YouTube channel**. For a complete schedule of events, visit PleinAirEaston.com.



Plein Air Easton is the work of the Avalon Foundation.