

WINCHESTER CELEBRATES "ART IN AUGUST"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 2024

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August is the month of the arts in Winchester as the town celebrates the 22nd year of "Art in August", a month-long festival conducted by the Winchester Cultural Council and the Winchester Artists' Network that includes displays of art by downtown businesses, Thursday evening artist receptions, and special events, including Art in the Park on Saturday, August 17.

The event begins at 7 pm on Wednesday, August 1, 2024, with a **gala opening reception** at the Griffin Museum of Photography at 67 Shore Road. The reception is free and open to all.

This year 20 businesses will provide window and interior space where 25 professional artists will show their creations for the entire month. Several businesses will host free receptions, open to all, on Thursday evenings in August. Residents can admire scores of art works created using practices ranging from those thousands of years old to the latest computer renderings (as well as some Augment Reality renderings). There is painting, drawing, jewelry, photography, pottery, and more.

Participating businesses are identified by fluttering colored "ART" streamers posted on the windows; inside, you can pick up a brochure with a map listing the artists and their locations as well as a host of enjoyable Art in August events. Maps and other information are also available online at **artinaugust.org**.

A highlight of Art in August comes on Saturday, August 17, with **Art in the Park**, a morning's celebration of hands-on art for all ages held on the Town Common in association with the Farmers' Market. There will be easel painting, fabric collage, and more. Artists will both demonstrate their craft and make their creations available for purchase.

Art in August activities take place in the heart of the **Winchester Cultural District.** During your art walk, be sure to admire the colorful **sidewalk art** throughout the town, and visit the year-long **Winchester Riverwalk** exhibition of outdoor sculpture and Augmented Reality experiences, sponsored by the Cultural District.

Many towns host weekend open studios or street fairs. Winchester is remarkable in transforming the entire downtown into an arts destination for a whole month. Who needs to drive for hours? Take this opportunity to get to know Winchester's uniquely beautiful and walkable Downtown. View and visit unusual local businesses richly embellished with art; meet and get to know the accommodating and friendly folks who staff them. You'll be glad you did.

All events are free of charge to the public.