

# GLOUCESTER ARTS FESTIVAL

JUNE 2024



[gloucesterartsfestival.com](http://gloucesterartsfestival.com)



# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Gloucester Arts Festival

*Welcome to the 2024 Festival!*

The 8th year of the Gloucester Arts Festival brings unique art experiences to the Middle Peninsula that you won't want to miss! **30** Plein Air artists will capture the beauty of our community in the Heart of the River Collection, on display at the new Fine Arts

Museum of Gloucester throughout the month of June.

The festival opens on May 31 at Machicomoco State Park for **Brews, Brine & Wine** and concludes with **Village Arts Day** and **Artisan Market** in Gloucester Courthouse on June 29th. Mark your calendar for a month-long celebration featuring community artists as they **Paint Main**, an evening under the stars with the **Virginia Symphony** a **Seward Johnson Sculpture Walk**, and **Mathews Paint Out Day** and reception at Bay School Community Arts Center. We are honored to partner the VFMA, Arts on Main, Abingdon Episcopal Church, Edgehill House, and Flat Iron Crossroads to bring you unforgettable experiences for the whole family. Visit [gloucesterartsfestival.com](https://gloucesterartsfestival.com) for up to date information and join us!



Marjo Holthaus, 2024 Chair

## *Celebrating the Arts for 25 Years - The Cook Commitment*

We are excited to welcome one and all to the Gloucester Arts Festival in 2024! This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Cook Foundation, and on behalf of our Board, Staff, and volunteers, we invite you to immerse yourself in the beauty and creativity that define Gloucester. As the Festival enters its 8th year, we extend a warm invitation to art patrons, collectors, and the public to join in the celebration of our artistic heritage. This festival is a loving tribute to the creative spirit within our community and beyond.

The highlight of every festival is the creation and exhibition of works by the Plein Air Painters. The **Heart of the River Exhibition** will be created beginning May 31st and then on view at the **Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester** through June 29th, showcasing the breathtaking beauty of Gloucester. Their paintings, each telling a unique story, will be available for purchase, offering a lasting connection to the soul of Gloucester.

Reflecting upon my first encounter with Gloucester, I was captivated by its natural splendor – the serene riverscapes and lush landscapes seemed like an artist's dream. Yet, at that time, the cultural offerings in our county were limited. Those in search of art festivals, symphonies, galleries, or murals often found themselves journeying beyond our borders. This realization led to the birth of the Cook Foundation in 1999, a privately funded 501(c3) organization with a heartfelt mission to foster the arts in Gloucester.

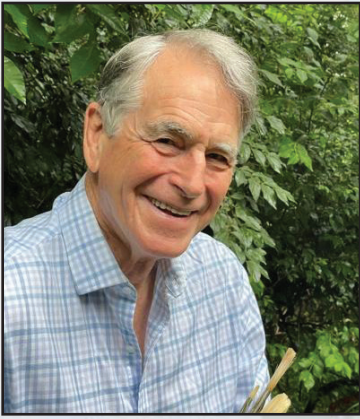
In addition to the festival, we've introduced a myriad of artistic endeavors, including annual concerts by the **Virginia Symphony**, the vibrant **Beehive Project**, **Main Street Flower Baskets**, the ultra-creative **Chalkfest**, and more. Our scholarship programs and other initiatives continuously enrich and diversify the cultural landscape of Gloucester, making art an accessible joy for everyone.

Our foundation, with the support of community partners and volunteers, nurtures public art experiences contributing to the charm and historical richness of our village and Main Street. Our efforts are a gentle reminder of the power of art to connect, inspire, and unify. We hope you feel the warmth and welcome this event embodies through the harmonious blend of global and local talents, celebrating the artistic spirit that thrives here. We look forward to sharing these moments of beauty and inspiration with you.



Adrienne Ryder Cook Joseph,  
Cook Foundation Chair





*Robert Johnson*

## *Meet the Plein Air Judge*

We are pleased to announce **Robert Johnson** as our **Plein Air Judge for 2024**.

Johnson was born in Hopewell, Virginia. He has an instinctive love for art from an early age. A lawyer by trade, he kept his painting and drawing in his private time. After returning to the US after living and studying art in Europe and several years of juggling the demands and conflicts of two diverging careers, he sought the advice of Frank Wright, a prominent painter and instructor of Art at George Washington University. While Frank Wright was critiquing Robert's drawings. Robert asked, "From what you see, can I be a real artist like the ones in books, galleries, and museums?" Wright wisely replied: "I like your drawings. But you must realize that you will never

know how good an artist you can be until art gets the very best within you...your primary attention, your highest energies, your best working time." The advice stuck. Soon thereafter Robert began an extended period of study at the Art Students League of NY where he studied painting with David Leffel and drawing with Robert Beverly Hale and Michael Burban. Since becoming a full-time [painter in 1987 Robert has won first-place national awards in The Artists Magazine and Salmagundi Club(NY) and numerous other awards. We are pleased to offer the community a chance to hear Robert's Gallery Talk or join him for an all day demonstration & workshop.

For more about Robert, please visit [robertjohnsonart.com](http://robertjohnsonart.com)



## *"Becoming an Artist" Gallery Talk*

Robert will deliver a talk and presentation of some of his art with a focus on his path from athlete to lawyer to becoming a successful artist and the events and people who made the journey possible. He will also have some of his art present and will be able to discuss it and the process of its creation with the audience.

*June 5th, 6pm*

*Location: Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester*

## *Color & Composition Workshop*

Get ready for an exciting workshop journey! We'll begin with a captivating still-life demonstration, where Johnson will unfold the secrets of perfecting your art setup. Imagine the joy of learning from an expert! Post-demonstration, we've got a treat for you: a lovely lunch and time to chat and share inspiration and ideas. Post-lunch, artists will set up their canvas and let the creativity flow, with Johnson there to guide and inspire every step of the way. With Johnson's wisdom and experience, this workshop isn't just about learning; it's about enjoying art, community, and growth together.

*June 8th, 9am-4pm*

*Location: The Gloucester Institute/Moton Center*





# EVENTS

SUN

MON

May 31

**Brews, Brine, & Wine**  
Machicomico State Park  
Time: 5:00pm (ticketed event)

June 1

**Paint Main**  
Gloucester Main Street  
Time: 10am-1pm (free event)

June 1

**Symphony Under the Stars**  
Corner of Walter Reed Way  
Time: 6pm (free event)

June 3

**Meet the Artists Dinner**  
Elmington Estate  
Time: 5:30pm (Patron only event)

June 4

**Mathews Paint Out**  
Bay School Community Arts Center  
Time: 10am-4pm Paint Out  
5pm Reception (free event)

June 5

**Robert Johnson Gallery Talk**  
"How to Become an Artist"  
Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester  
Time: 6:00pm (free event)

June 6

**Cocktails in the Garden**  
Belvinheim Quay  
Time: 5pm (ticketed event)

June 7

**Local Color Show**  
Arts on Main  
6:00pm-8:00pm (free event)

June 8

**Robert Johnson Demo & Workshop**  
"Color & Composition"  
Gloucester Institute/Moton Center  
Time: 9:00am-4pm (Class Fee)

June 8

**Plein Air Invitational Gala**  
Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester  
Time: 6pm (ticketed event)

June 13

**Arts at Abingdon**  
Abingdon Episcopal Church  
Time: 7pm (free event)

June 14 &  
15

**Friends of Lens Photography Show**  
Edgehill House  
Time: 12-5pm (free event)

June 20

**Sculpture Walk on Main**  
Starts at Courthouse Circle  
Time: 6:30pm (free event)

June 22

**Bobby Blackhat Concert**  
Flat Iron Crossroads  
Time: 6:30pm (ticketed event)

June 29

**Village Arts Day & Artisan Market**  
Courthouse Circle  
Time: 11am - 4pm (free event)

June 29

**It's A Wrap!**  
Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester  
Time: 4pm (free event)

Don't miss out! Get a Festival pass for our ticketed events on our website

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\*FAMG: FINE ARTS MUSEUM OF GLOUCESTER  
for more info visit our website: [gloucesterartsfestival.com](http://gloucesterartsfestival.com)

TUE WED THU FRI SAT

June 2024

[ 2024			BREWS, BRINE & WINE  5PM		PAINT MAIN  10AM-2PM			
			31		SYMPHONY  6-9PM			
NEWS PAINT OUT  4 RECEPTION		ROBERT JOHNSON GALLERY TALK  6PM		COCKTAILS IN THE GARDEN  5PM		LOCAL COLOR SHOW  6PM - 8PM		
				7		COLOR & COMPOSITION WORKSHOP  9AM - 4PM		
						PLEIN AIR GALA  6-9PM		
COLLECTION AT *FAMG UNTIL JUNE 30TH			ARTS AT ABINGDON  7PM		FRIENDS OF LENS PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW  12-5PM		13	
11		12		14		15		
R COLLECTION AT *FAMG THRU JUNE			SCULPTURE WALK  6:30PM		BOBBY BLACKHAT CONCERT 		22	
18		19		21		22		
COLLECTION AT *FAMG UNTIL JUNE 30TH					VILLAGE ARTS DAY  11AM-4PM			
25		26		28		29		
			 <p>Paintings exhibited in the Heart of the River Collection are for sale until</p>		4-6PM			

Paintings  
exhibited in  
the Heart of the  
River Collection are  
for sale until  
June 29th

www.gloucesterartsfestival.com



# Meet the Artists of the Heart of the River Plein Air Competition!



Olena Babak | [olenababak.com](http://olenababak.com)

*"It is poetry of light and constant change that makes me excited...it can be a sunrise or sunset, a constantly moving water or ever changing harbor, a storm or a gentle morning fog. It is fleeting moments presented by nature that captivate me the most."*



Andras Baloty | [andrasbaloty.com](http://andrasbaloty.com)

*"My paintings are based on observation, whether it's painting or drawing from life, or participating in or watching a situation transpire and then taking the images in my mind's eye and assembling the parts later in my studio."*



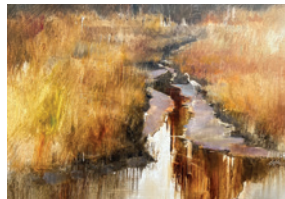
Greg Barnes | [barnesstudios.com](http://barnesstudios.com)

*"I consider myself a contemporary landscape impressionist, relying heavily on intuition...contrast, movement, and light attract me, and a bold use of color often punctuates my style."*



Alison Barry | [alison-barry.com](http://alison-barry.com)

*"I paint outside because unexpected things happen constantly. My goal is to communicate the immediacy of fleeting light effects and weather conditions in the sky and landscape."*



Beth Bathe | [bethbathe.com](http://bethbathe.com)

*"My representational paintings have been described by art critics as 'evoking nostalgia, like that of an old sepia toned photograph, often with just touches of color'."*



John Brandon Sills | [johnbrandonsillsfineart.com](http://johnbrandonsillsfineart.com)

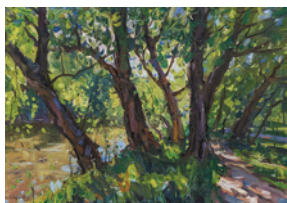
*"Painting primarily on location en plein air allows me to catch my subject at a specific time, ideally when the light and shadows play on the surface creating drama and emotion."*



Coakley Brown | [coakleybrown.com](http://coakleybrown.com)

*"Searching for and discovering that truth brings a spirit of bold playfulness to my work as I explore relationships between color, paint application, subject matter, and self."*





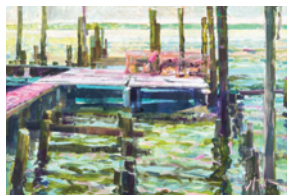
**Kyle Buckland** | [kylebuckland.com](http://kylebuckland.com)

*"My style of painting, which is deeply rooted in the fundamental philosophies regarding Impressionism, is as unique as the subject matter is inviting."*



**Doug Clarke** | [liquidmethod.com](http://liquidmethod.com)

*"A great painting for me invokes an emotion and a story that leaves the viewer finishing the narrative with their own imagination."*



**Trey Finney** | [treyfinney.com](http://treyfinney.com)

*"I believe my paintings reflect that artistic interpretation of vision and knowledge; an impressionistic style with an emphasis on color, drawing and an underlying abstract design."*



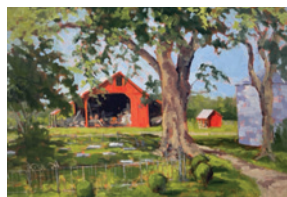
**Hema Gupta** | [facebook.com/hemagupta.paintings](https://facebook.com/hemagupta.paintings)

*"My goal is to capture the mood and essence of a place or person in a manner that evokes an emotional response from the viewer."*



**Joseph Gyurcsak** | [josephgyurcsak.com](http://josephgyurcsak.com)

*"My paintings express a sense of light, atmosphere, and mood; they transcend the techniques employed to create them and breathe the very light and atmosphere they were painted in."*



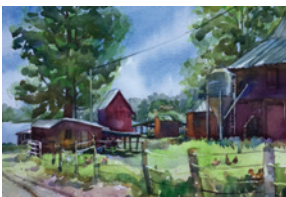
**Kim Hall** | [kimhallstudio.com](http://kimhallstudio.com)

*"My intent is for a painting to be as much about the paint as it is capturing a scene. I really want the viewer to be able to find their own interpretation."*



**David Heath** | [davidheathart.com](http://davidheathart.com)

*"My paintings consciously reflect the aesthetic values of an earlier time, hopefully drawing viewers into a more peaceful and tranquil world--a world of beauty now in danger, yet still not lost."*



**Catherine Hillis** | [catherinehillis.com](http://catherinehillis.com)

*"Art in all forms, but particularly painting, became and remains my passion. It has enriched my life tremendously."*





**Neal Hughes** | [nealhughes.com](http://nealhughes.com)

*"Art should elevate the everyday and ordinary and allow us to see beauty that might otherwise be missed. I hope that all who see my work will share in the deep pleasure and joy that I experience while creating it."*



**Fred Jackson** | [fredjackson.net](http://fredjackson.net)

*"As a plein air painter, I am most inspired by the felt moods and patterns that the natural and cultural landscapes evoke in me."*



**Russell Jewell** | [russelljewell.com](http://russelljewell.com)

*"A simple black square is a window to everything in the world... in the dark. Therefore, regardless of the subject or medium, all that matters is light."*



**Jim Laurino** | [jimlaurino.com](http://jimlaurino.com)

*"For me, painting is the combination of vision and knowledge. The application of the artist's knowledge about painting while under the influence of the subject."*



**Matt Lively** | [mattlively.com](http://mattlively.com)

*"Plein air is a performative collaboration between the location, natural environment, the materials and me. My hope is that the object will elicit the feeling of the whole experience."*



**Lynn Mehta** | [lynnmehta.com](http://lynnmehta.com)

*"Elements which spark my creativity include old farm buildings, city streets, the gesture of a person, the color of flowers, open vistas, blue mountains, quiet rivers, or the crashing of waves."*



**KC Rajendra** | [kcfineart.net](http://kcfineart.net)

*"My watercolor plein air pieces capture the beauty of local scenes, from the vibrant Farmer's Market to the serene landscapes of the region."*



**Jim Rehak** | [jimrehak.com](http://jimrehak.com)

*"An artist's response to nature, light and everything around us can be expressed in paint... and each artist's response is unique."*

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**Julie Riker** | [julieriker.com](http://julieriker.com)

*"I consider myself primarily an observational painter, painting mostly from life, and often outside 'en plein air'. Painting in one session, 'Alla prima' keeps the surface fresh."*



**Orit Reuben** | [oritreuben.com](http://oritreuben.com)

*"My paintings capture the essence of a scene and are just as much about a moment in time as about a specific scene or subject."*



**Radhika Srinivas** | [radhikasrinivas.com](http://radhikasrinivas.com)

*"Watercolor, which is my medium of choice, lends itself very well to exhibit my style which is a happy compromise between loose brushstrokes and just enough detail to make the paintings sparkle."*



**Nancy Tankersley** | [nancytankersley.com](http://nancytankersley.com)

*"You spend a lot of time learning your craft — drawing, mixing color — but you don't become an artist until you start dealing in intangibles where you feel the wind and hear the noise in a painting"*



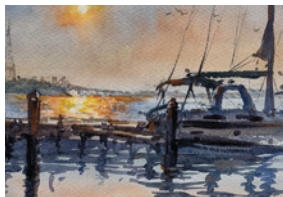
**Mary Veiga** | [maryveigastudio.com](http://maryveigastudio.com)

*"My work begins by seeking enlightenment through nature. Themes of inspiration and hope with inner peace and belonging are intentional in my expressions."*



**Durre Waseem** | [www.marilynroseart.com](http://www.marilynroseart.com)

*"My biggest inspiration is light, that helps me weave my design through the surface by narrowing down my choice of shapes and colors. To me, the best shape in nature is the human form"*



**Vicky Zhou** | [vickyzhou.art](http://vickyzhou.art)

*"I love to see if I can capture the stories that unfold around me and the effects of constantly changing light and weather in unfamiliar places. Each painting is a success in its own right."*

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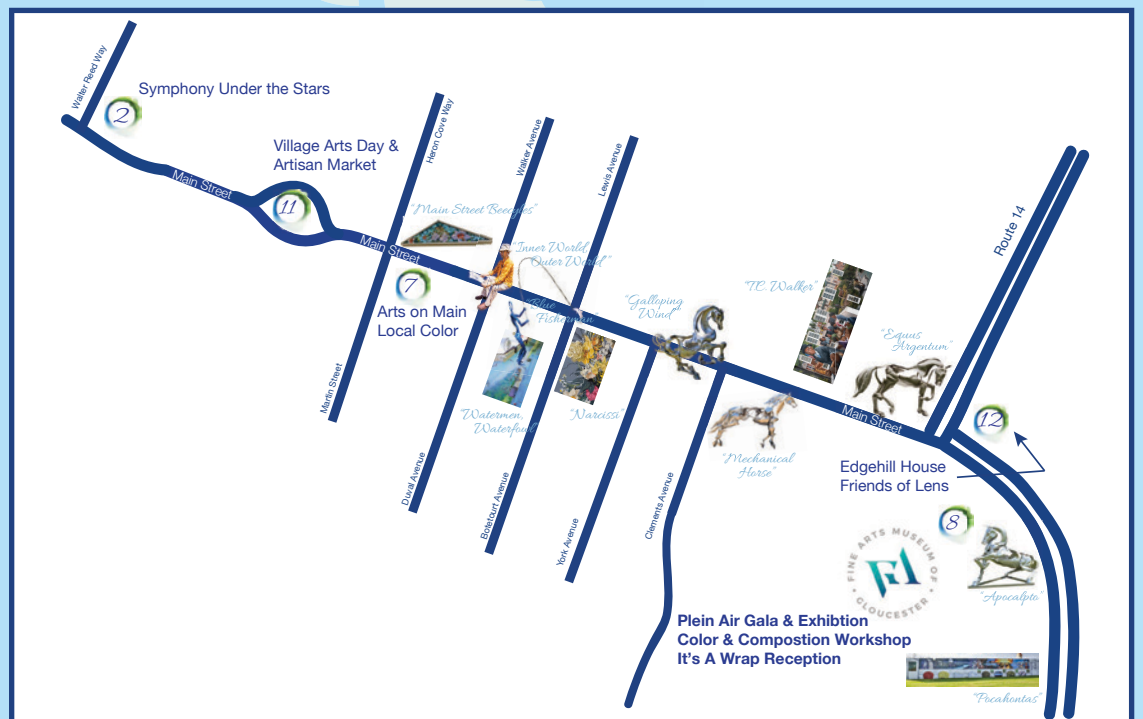
## Map Key

- 1 Brews, Brine & Wine
- 2 Symphony Under the Stars
- 3 Meet the Artists
- 4 Mathews Paint Out - Bay School

### Locations:

- 4a River Oaks, The Chase's
- 4b Sunrise Farm The Schursky's
- 4c The Desmond's
- 4d Channelside, The Bryan's & Mobjack Bay Marina
- 4e Compass Marina
- 4f CA&J Farm
- 4g Williams Wharf
- 5 Workshop at Gloucester Institute
- 6 Cocktails in the Garden
- 7 Arts on Main - Local Color Show
- 8 Fine Arts Museum of Gloucester
- Plein Air Gala
- Gallery Talk
- It's A Wrap! Reception
- 9 Arts at Abingdon Concert
- 10 Bobby Blackhat Concert
- 11 Village Arts Day & Artisan Market
- 12 Friends of Lens Photography Show

## Downtown Inset with Permanent Art Installations





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COOK FOUNDATION

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**Morgan Stanley**

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*2024 Sculpture Experience sponsored by*



*we are also proud to partner with*



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