



ART IN THE COUNTY

For Immediate Release

### 33RD EDITION EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY TO NON-PEC ARTISTS

**Picton, April 27, 2026** – The Prince Edward County Arts Council (County Arts) and the 33rd Annual Art in the County Organizing Committee invite all County Arts Artist Members within a one-hour (or 80 KM) radius of Picton to participate in Art in the County (see website for list of eligible communities). The annual juried show and sale is an annual celebration of the visual arts, and an important fundraising event for County Arts. Approximately 100 artworks are displayed by 80 artists working in a variety of mediums. Up to 2 pieces of artwork may be submitted for consideration until June 12th at noon.

“County Arts now operates on a regional level, serving artists and community members living across the Bay of Quinte and beyond,” says Janna Smith, County Arts Executive Director. “By welcoming County Arts Artist Members from neighbouring communities, the exhibition will evolve into a truly regional platform, attracting new audiences, strengthening partnerships, and further positioning Prince Edward County as a significant contributor to Canada’s artistic landscape.”

That said, participation of non-PEC artists will be capped at 25% in 2026 so organizers can test and learn.

“We hope this expansion will help foster deeper connections with artists who reside outside of the County, but who have strong ties to here - including Indigenous artists,” says Sarah Burtscher, County Arts Programs Manager and Art in the County Co-chair.

Other benefits of expanding the eligibility criteria include, **unlocking** access to new regional marketing opportunities and audiences leading to increased attendance levels and art sales for all participating artists; **enabling** show visitors, including hundreds of Prince Edward County residents, to experience new artistic work and perspectives; and **opening** access to non-PEC based businesses to support the arts.

### PRESENTING SPONSOR

Organizers welcome **Research Casting International (RCI)** as this year’s Presenting Sponsor. Based in Trenton, RCI operates a world-class 50,000 square foot facility serving clients such as the Royal Ontario Museum, London’s Natural History Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution. “We are very excited to be building a new relationship with RCI - there are so many ways for our organizations to partner, including an opportunity to strengthen the Municipality’s Public Art Program that County Arts administers,” says Smith.

### SUPPORTING SPONSORS



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Organizers are grateful for the continued support of **Elizabeth Crombie Real Estate Team** and **McDougall Insurance & Financial**, and are also excited to welcome newcomers **Leslie McKay, CIBC Private Investment Counsel** (Ottawa) and **Quinte Photo Services** in Trenton who are inviting all artists submitting work to Art in the County to have their artwork professionally photographed and digitized at no charge.

## **JURORS**

A panel of three distinguished Canadian art professionals are solely responsible for determining the exhibition's content. The jurying process is blind (the jurors do not know whose work they are viewing), and jurors must work together to reach a consensus when selecting work. We are pleased to welcome three exceptional individuals whose experience and insight will be instrumental in providing a high-quality experience for both artist and visitor:

**Marissa Y Alexander**, Ceramic Artist & Sculptor (Hamilton), **John Gagne**, Gallery Director & Curator (Toronto), and **Stanzie Tooth**, Visual Artist (Toronto)

*New in 2026:* The jury will meet online to assess and select the artworks to include in the show, then gather in-person to determine the award winners and offer critiques to those who have requested this service at the time of registration. Only those artists whose artwork has been selected will be required to drop off artwork at the County Arts Lab on June 19.

Visit [artinthecounty.com/apply/jury](http://artinthecounty.com/apply/jury) to learn more about the jurors and the jurying process.

We wish to thank our Artist Accommodation Sponsor **The Royal Hotel** for hosting the jurors.

## **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Submit registration form, image(s) and payment by **Friday, June 12 at 12PM**. Visit [www.artinthecounty.com](http://www.artinthecounty.com) to read eligibility requirements and conditions, including tips on how to photograph artwork.

## **ABOUT ART IN THE COUNTY**

Established in 1993, Art in the County has welcomed over 68,000 visitors, showcased 2,700 works of art, and has generated over \$450,000 in art sales for local artists. For over 30 years, Art in the County has played a vital role in enriching the region's cultural landscape.

