



ART IN THE COUNTY

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For Immediate Release

ART IN THE COUNTY FINDS A PERMANENT HOME

Picton, April 17, 2024 – The Prince Edward County Arts Council (County Arts) and the Art in the County (AITC) Organizing Committee are thrilled to announce that the 31st edition of the juried show and sale will be presented at the County Arts Lab, the community’s newest multi-use event space in the heart of Picton.

“One of the main reasons County Arts decided to lease a larger space in the Armoury building,” says Executive Director Janna Smith, “was to give this beloved community art exhibition a permanent home.” Following the closure of the Lipson Room above Books & Company in late 2017, Art in the County was presented at various locations, including on the lower level of The Armoury and most recently at Base31.

The new light-filled space on the upper level of The Armoury is being equipped with gallery lighting and new art display panels to enhance the exhibition of over 100 works of art created by County-based artists. Art in the County is the region’s largest juried group exhibition featuring artwork in a wide range of media, including watercolour, acrylic, oil and encaustic paintings, sculpture, fibre, wood, photography, ceramics, glass and more.

NEW SPACE BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Having a permanent space will allow County Arts to partner with Muskoka Arts & Crafts to organize the first-ever community art exhibition swap between Prince Edward County and Muskoka. Artwork not sold at Art in the County in June-July will be exhibited in Bracebridge September 7 - 22, 2024. Muskoka artwork will be on display at the County Arts Lab August 9 - 25, 2024. “We are excited to offer our artist members the opportunity to reach new audiences outside of the County,” says Smith.

EXHIBITION OPENS IN-PERSON AND ONLINE JUNE 21

The 31st edition of Art in the County will be simultaneously presented in-person and online from **June 21 to July 7**. In-person visitors can view the exhibition on the upper level of the Picton Armoury located at 206 Main Street. Accessible entry is available from Main Street. The exhibition will be curated by Kelly Kyle & Sonja Scharf of Akasha Art Projects and Jim Turner of 2gallery.

As in previous years, visitors will also be able to view digital images of this year’s selected artworks at www.artinthecounty.com. Online shows have the potential to reach a wider audience. Over the last

four years, AITC sold artwork to buyers living outside our region, including in Toronto, Hamilton, Owen Sound, Guelph, Barrie, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, and Whistler.

JURORS

Jurors are solely responsible for the show's content, as well as selecting one **Jurors' Choice Award** and three **Honorable Mention Awards**. Show organizers are thrilled to announce the three award-winning artists who will serve as jurors:

Aylan Couchie, Interdisciplinary Artist, Curator and Writer (Nipissing First Nation and Tkarón:to), **Claire Kyle**, Art Rentals & Sales - Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), and **Darren Rigo**, Photographer (Toronto)

We wish to thank our Hospitality Sponsor The Royal Hotel for hosting the jurors.

COMMUNITY ARTS BUILDER AWARD

Sponsored by **Laurie Gruer, Monica Klingenberg & Alysa Hawkins of Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited Brokerage**, the Community Arts Builder Award returns in 2024. With nominees chosen by County residents, the Community Arts Builder Award recognizes an individual who has enriched community life through the arts. Past recipients include Bruce Dowdell, Marysburgh Mummers volunteer and youth mentor (2023); Sarah Moran, arts champion and volunteer (2022); Kato Wake, Visual Artist and Instructor (2021); Hri Neil, Founder Carbon Art & Design (2020); Krista Dalby, Artistic Director Department of Illumination (2019); and Alice & Peter Mennacher, Co-founders Blizzmax Gallery (2018). All 2024 nominations must be received by June 7. The Award, which includes a \$250 monetary gift, will be announced on June 20. To learn more, visit www.artinthecounty.com.

ARTIST AWARDS

One **Jurors' Choice Award** (\$750) and three **Honourable Mentions** (\$100 each) are supported by local businesses, including Arts on Main Gallery, Books & Company, Family Dentistry@Picton, Northern Branding Studio, Picton Home Hardware, Printcraft, and The Local Store. Winners to be announced on June 20.

Sponsored by 2gallery and Welch LLP, the **People's Choice Award** and the **Children's Choice Award** will be determined by visitor ballots and presented at the close of the exhibition. Winners receive a \$250 monetary gift.

The **Maison Depoivre Award** will be presented to an artist whose work demonstrates risk-taking and originality, technical skill, and is thought provoking. Special attention will be given to the use of colour in a daring, innovative way. The jurors will determine the award recipient from Maison Depoivre's selection of three finalists. The winner will be invited to display their work at Maison Depoivre Gallery for the rest of the 2024 season, once AITC closes its doors on July 7.

The **Carson Arthur Award** will be presented to an artist whose work represents, or evokes Nature in an innovative and original way. The jurors will determine the award recipient from Carson Arthur's selection of three finalists. This award includes a \$500 monetary gift for the winning artist and a \$500 donation to a local, non-profit organization advocating for the protection of the environment (organization selected by the winning artist).

Akasha Art Projects Award will be presented to an artist whose work represents a fresh and original approach to their artistic expression. Considerations for this award are extended to artists who explore the boundaries of their chosen media through innovative perspectives that evoke and challenge the viewer. Founders of Akasha Art Projects, Kelly Kyle & Sonja Scharf, will choose three

finalists and will defer to the jurors of AITC to select the final recipient. The recipient of the award will receive a gift certificate in the amount of \$500, redeemable at Akasha Art Projects.

Oeno Gallery Award of Excellence will be given to the creator of one exceptional work, demonstrating creativity and originality, executed with technical fluency and skill, and presented professionally. The winner will be selected by Carlyn Moulton, Owner & Curator, Oeno Gallery. This award has a monetary value of \$500.

Art in the County is grateful for the continued support of McDougall Insurance & Financial and Elizabeth Crombie Real Estate Team, and welcomes Sean McKinney of RE/MAX Quinte Ltd. as a new Supporting Sponsor. Art in the County would not be possible without the generosity of local businesses. The organizing committee is looking forward to showcasing and celebrating the extraordinary talent of local artists in this 31st edition of the show.

CALL FOR ENTRY IS NOW OPEN!

Deadline for submitting the registration form, image(s) and payment is **Friday June 7 at 12PM**. Visit www.artinthecounty.com to read eligibility requirements and conditions, including tips on how to photograph artwork. Artists will be required to drop-off artwork at the County Arts Lab on Saturday June 15.

For more information about Art in the County, visit: www.artinthecounty.com, call the Prince Edward County Arts Council at (613) 476-8767 or e-mail: artinthecounty@countyarts.ca.

Art in the County is recognized as the premier art exhibition in Eastern Ontario. Since its inception in 1993, the show has hosted over 63,000 visitors, showcased more than 2,600 works of art by Prince Edward County artists, and has sold nearly \$400,000 worth of art to collectors, buyers and art lovers alike.