

# **NEW! 2026 Plein Air Competition**

## New York State Fair Wegmans Creative Arts Center

(315) 728-4328 – Creative Arts Center Office

[nyscreativearts@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:nyscreativearts@agriculture.ny.gov)

Presented by the New York State Fair, Syracuse, New York 13209,  
from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm daily (6:00 pm on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026)

A “Plein Air” Competition is a structured art event where participants create artwork outdoors, on location, within a specified timeframe, and in a defined area. Participants will work directly from their surroundings to capture the fleeting effects of light, color and atmosphere of The Great New York State Fair!

### **FEES:**

- **Exhibitor Fee: \$15.00**
- **Entry Fee: \$10.00 Adult**

### **“PLEIN AIR” RULES:**

1. Please see the **Creative Arts Center General Rules and Regulations** and the **Creative Arts Center Exhibitor Schedule** that is on the NYS Fair website under Creative Arts Center. This schedule contains all dates that pertain to entering and exhibiting in the NYS Fair Creative Arts Center.
2. The rules printed herein are made a part of the conditions under which all entries of exhibitors are made, and exhibitors are respectfully requested to read them carefully, thereby avoiding confusion at the time of the Fair and to ensure they are entering their entry correctly.
3. Contest is limited to NYS Residents and to the first ten (10) applicants for adults. Please only one (1) entry per family/household. If all the applicant spots are filled, and you would like to be put on our waiting list, please contact the Creative Arts Center Office at 315-728-4328.
4. Artists must check-in at the Creative Arts Center between 8:30 am and 8:45 am on Thursday, August 27, 2026, the day of the competition. Artists will receive a NYS Fair delivery pass, admission ticket and a parking pass to drop their supplies off at the Creative Arts Center between 7:30 am and 8:15 am. All vehicles **MUST** be off the fairgrounds by 8:30 am. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** After dropping off, you must return to Gate 11 to exit and park in one of the exterior lots (gray, brown or orange). **Please remember to receive a wristband for re-entry into the fair.** You may then either walk

back into the fair or take the courtesy shuttle back (please note, shuttle may have a lengthy wait time throughout the day) to the Creative Arts Center.

5. The artist's Medium **MUST** be stamped by the Creative Arts Center staff prior to beginning work. The medium must be blank. If the medium is not blank, you will be disqualified. Only two (2) surfaces may be stamped at check-in. Please note that you will only be allowed to submit one (1) for entry.
6. Artists are required to supply their own materials for their artwork. The size restrictions are as follows: 11" x 14" with a maximum size of 18" x 24". Unframed canvas **MUST** be done "Gallery Style". For all other mediums, matting is required. **NO WIRES OR METAL HANGING HOOKS** on entries. Medias that can be used are acrylics, pastels, watercolors or drawing. **NO OIL PAINTS** are allowed. The NYS Fair will not provide any materials.
7. You **MUST** inform The Creative Arts Center staff where on the NYS Fairgrounds you will be working. You will receive an Exhibitors Badge identifying you as part of this competition. You will need to wear this for the entire time of the competition. The Badge must be turned into the Creative Arts Center when you complete your entry. **NOTE:** Artists must use caution in setting up their work to not restrict the flow of Fair traffic, interfere with building Superintendents, competitions, or concessions during the Fair. Please note that buildings on the fairgrounds open at 10:00 am.
8. Exhibitors will have from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm on Thursday, August 27, 2026, to create their entry. All entries must be turned into the Creative Arts Center no later than 5:30 pm the day of the competition. Failure to do this will result in automatic disqualification. When you turn your entry in, you will be assigned a unique number for judging purposes. All artwork will be on display in the Creative Arts Center until the end of the Fair. Please see the Creative Arts Center Exhibitor Schedule for Claim Entry Day pick-ups to obtain your entry.
9. Exhibitors will **NOT** be allowed to use a photographic device or photos during the competition. Exhibitors **MUST** stay in their designated area that was chosen. The Exhibitor must also **NOT** interfere with the sightlines of other Exhibitors who are participating in the Plein Air Competition. Failure to abide by this will result in automatic disqualification.
10. General public judging will be held at the NYS Fair in the Creative Arts Center from Friday, August 28, 2026, to Monday, August 31, 2026. Results will be posted on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, on the NYS Fairs website.

<b><u>Adult:</u></b>	<b><u>Class 1:</u></b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
	<b><u>Prizes:</u></b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$25</b>