



MISSISSIPPI EARTHTONES' 4TH ANNUAL PLEIN AIR COMPETITION

The Artfully Alton committee of the Alton Marketplace Association is inviting all area artists to enter the Mississippi Earthtones Plein Air Competition. The contest will consist of paintings or drawings depicting a true-to-life scene of the Mississippi River or surrounding scenery as viewed from the festival grounds of the Mississippi Earthtones Festival. The competition will be held and juried on Saturday, September 17th, 2011 at the Alton Amphitheater at Riverfront Park. Artists representing a wide variety of expertise and media – oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, drawing and mixed media – are invited to create artwork of the Mississippi River and surrounding scenery *en plein air*, which literally means “in the open air”. Registered artists will have 5 hours (Noon-5pm) to complete their work of art, which must be executed outdoors and on-site. Artists will have the opportunity to have their work juried at the festival and win cash prizes. Art will be exhibited and artists will have the opportunity to sell their work during the Mississippi Earthtones Festival, if desired.

THE MISSISSIPPI EARTHTONES FESTIVAL: presented by Alton Marketplace and the Sierra Club, is a celebration of our river through art, music, and conservation - held annually on the 3rd Saturday in September – this year falling on 9/17/2011. This event, held from 12pm to 10pm, attracts 1,000+ people to Riverfront Park for informational booths on ecology, native plants & animals, and recycling, as well as: fine arts, river-related crafts, food vendors, litter clean-ups, organized hikes & bike rides, and live music.

REGISTRATION FEE ENTITLES EACH CONTESTANT TO:

- a) Entry into the contest and eligibility for cash prizes.
- b) Entry into an “acrylic materials & methods” lecture from 11am-Noon on Saturday, September 17th in a covered pavilion at Riverfront Park, which officially kicks off the contest. Artists will get their blank canvases to be used in the competition stamped at this time. The contest will start at Noon, and artists may choose to start painting at any time of day, but please note that the cost is the same if you paint for one hour or the full 5 hours.
- c) Attendees of the lecture will receive free paint & medium samples that would be appropriate for use in the competition, if participants so choose.

AWARDS: The following cash prizes will be awarded:

1st Place: \$200

2nd Place: \$100

3rd Place: \$50

Peoples' Choice: \$50

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all artists age 18 & over.

CATEGORIES: Oil Painting, Watercolor, Pastel, Acrylics, Drawing, & Mixed Media.

Participating artists must paint from life - on location. Studio work is not allowed.

FEES: \$15.00 if registration is postmarked by September 12th or hand delivered by September 14th / The walk-up fee is \$20.00 to register on the day of the festival.

Registration fee is non-refundable, and the cost is the same if you paint for one hour or the full five hours. Checks and money orders are accepted, made payable to Alton Marketplace OR you may pay online with PayPal at www.AltonMarketplace.com. Please note that if you pay online, you still must mail in your signed entry form.

JUROR / JUDGING: Jeff Vaughn, nationally acclaimed landscape artist and Alton native, will be the juror for this competition. Only art created in plein air of the Mississippi River or surrounding scenery during the competition will be considered for awards. No unstamped surfaces will be considered for jury. All artwork to be judged must be delivered to the River Art Village section of the festival by 5pm sharp; judging for the general competition will start promptly at 5:15, and awards will be given at 6pm. Each artist may submit up to two pieces for judging in the general competition, but only one monetary award will be given per artist. Competition winners will be announced at the festival, and publicized in Marketplace's October newsletter as well as by press release to local media.

REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN: The registration fee for the competition is \$15.00 in advance or \$20 on the day of the festival. All artists must have their blank painting surfaces stamped before starting the painting or drawing, and no canvases will be stamped prior to 11am on September 17th when the "acrylic materials & methods" lecture is to be held to kick off the competition.

EXHIBITION BY ARTISTS: Artists will be required to show their plein air artwork created during the competition at the festival on Saturday, September 17th from 5pm - 7pm. All artists are required to provide an easel to show their **juried work only**.

SALES: If desired, artists are also welcome (though not required) to show and sell work created at other locations and in their studio for an additional \$35 fee. Display space will be limited to 10' X 10' per artist. All artists will be responsible for their display materials - tents, display racks, easels, tables, chairs, etc. Any original artwork or handmade items are welcome to be sold during the festival and will not be subject to a commission by the organizer; shared booth space is permitted.



OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

DEADLINE: For early bird entry fee of \$15.00, registrations must be postmarked by September 12th, or hand-delivered by September 14th, 2011.

The fee to enter after the 15th or on the day of the contest is \$20.

Artist's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Art medium: _____

Please list any artists' organizations with which you are affiliated: _____

How did you hear about this competition? _____

Please choose one of the boxes below:

Enclosed is my \$15 registration fee to enter the Plein Air Competition. I will provide my own easel for judging and exhibition.

Enclosed is my \$50 payment (\$15 registration fee & \$35 booth fee) to enter the Plein Air Competition and reserve a 10x10 booth space at the Mississippi Earthtones Festival. I will make arrangements to have my booth manned from 12-7 while I paint, and provide my own easel for judging and exhibition.

Please make checks payable to Alton Marketplace. Mail this entry form along with fees to:

Mississippi Earthtones Plein Air Competition

Alton Marketplace Association – 200 W. 3rd Street, Suite 100 - Alton, IL 62002

LIABILITY AND INSURANCE: While precautions are taken to safeguard artwork in possession of the Artfully Alton committee and participants while at Riverfront Park, the Alton Marketplace Association accepts no liability for loss or damage to artwork in transit, in storage, on display, or for any personal injury incurred during the participation in this event. Artists are strongly encouraged to insure their own person and artwork.

All artwork presented for judging may be photographed and reproduced for non-commercial promotion by the Alton Marketplace Association. The Artfully Alton committee reserves the right to accept or not accept any work for exhibition.

I have read and agree to follow all the rules. **(You must sign & date this form!)**

Signature of Artist: _____ Date: _____

(or guardian if under 18)

Mississippi Earthtones Festival
Celebrating our river through art, music, and conservation