



Mississippi Riverscapes:

The 2025 Rivers Project Plein Air Art Competition

Join this month-long celebration of art by exploring some of the beautiful recreation locations the USACE Rivers Project has to offer. Enter your painting or drawing, created at, and depicting, one or more of the following locations to have your artwork exhibited in the National Great Rivers Museum and participate in a juried art competition for regional and cash prizes!

- 1 Silo Access Area - Pike County, MO
- 2 Calumet Creek Natural Area - Pike County, MO
- 3 Lincoln Shields Recreation Area
- 4 Ellis Bay/Rivers Project Area
- 5 Ellis Island
- 6 Heron Pond
- 7 Illinois Esplanade (National Great Rivers Museum)
- 8 Low Water Access Area (Chain of Rocks)

For more details and a link to the list of contest rules and regulations, see the other side of this map!



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The 2025 Rivers Project Plein Air Art Competition

WHAT: An open-air painting and drawing competition, completed independently at any of 8 designated Rivers Project locations. Draw or paint the scenery in-person at your location, then submit completed works (limit of one per person, per location) by 5 pm on June 22nd to be included in a competition for regional and cash prizes, including a weekend artist retreat at the Green Tree Inn in Elsah, IL. All entries will also be displayed in an art exhibit in the National Great Rivers Museum!

WHO: All professional and amateur artists ages 16+

WHERE: Any of the listed Rivers Project locations located on the map side of this document. Paint/draw at one, two, or all 8 locations for one entry fee!

WHEN: Work must be produced between June 1st and June 22nd, 2025. Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony at the National Great Rivers Museum on July 12th, 2025, and works will be exhibited in the museum from July 14th to September 14th, 2025.

COST: The entry fee is a one-time, non-refundable fee of \$25 per artist. Each artist may submit up to one artwork per location for a total of 8 submissions.

MEET THE JUDGES:

This competition is held in partnership with Jacoby Arts Center, a 501c3 that nurtures and promotes the practice and appreciation of the arts through Education, Exhibitions, Cultural Programming, and Outreach Initiatives.

All work will be juried by the Jacoby Arts Center Exhibition Committee and guest judges including prominent artists, art educators, and gallery owners.

WHAT IS PLEIN AIR?

Plein Air, a French term meaning “in open air” is a method of painting in which the artist paints entirely outdoors, capturing the essence and lighting of the real-life scene in front of them. It first gained popularity in the 19th century with the availability of paints in tube form, which allowed artists to more easily work outdoors. Today it continues to be a popular art form, practiced by artists all over the world!

Want to find out more? For a complete list of rules and regulations, as well as to register, scan the QR code below, view our Facebook event on the National Great Rivers Museum Facebook page, or visit the event landing page at mtrf.org/plein-air/



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