



MARK TWAIN LIBRARY  
**ART SHOW**

**PROSPECTUS AND INVITATION TO ARTISTS**

**51st ANNUAL JURIED ART SHOW • December 2 – 10, 2023**

**A Fundraiser for the Mark Twain Library in Redding, Connecticut**

**You are invited to participate in the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Mark Twain Library Juried Art Show! Once again, our beloved library will be transformed into a stunning fine arts gallery. This annual fundraiser secures vital funding to sustain the library's many programs.**

**Rules & Eligibility**

- The Art Show is open to artists eighteen years of age and older.
- All artwork must be original. Artists may submit two (2) works of art: paintings, mixed media, works on paper, drawings, or sculptures (no digital, computer-generated art, reproductions, or photography). No work may be done under supervision. Works exhibited in previous MTL Art Shows are not eligible.
- All artwork submitted and accepted into the show must be available for sale in the Library Gallery and online in the Virtual Gallery. If you enter your artwork, you must ensure it remains available for inclusion in the Art Show. We reserve the right to disqualify artists who sell their work in the interim.
- Presentation: two-dimensional artwork must be framed or have gallery-wrapped edges – raw edges of the support (such as canvas, paper, or panel) are not permitted. Two-dimensional artwork must have a wire on the back for hanging – top-edge notched hangers are not sufficient. Sculptures must have appropriate stands or pedestals which should be included in the price of the work.
- Maximum size: 48 inches in any one direction, including frame. Due to strict space limitations, of the two possible submissions, please consider submitting just one large piece. The library has wall space to hang 12 to 15 large works. We are also limited in our ability to present heavy works.

- Commission: A commission of 35% is retained by the Mark Twain Library on all juried artworks that are sold during the Art Show. This revenue directly funds the library's operating budget.
- Any unsold work(s) must be retrieved by the artist (or authorized representative) at the conclusion of the show.

### **Judging and Notification of Acceptance**

- This year's show is juried by David Dunlop.
- Artists will be notified by email as to whether their work(s) have or have not been accepted into the Art Show. Artists can expect notification by 5pm on Thursday, November 16.

### **Entry Requirements**

- The Artist Entry Portal is found here: <https://mtlartistentryportal.org/>.
- The window to enter the 2023 Art Show is Tuesday, October 3-Thursday, November 2.
- Submissions received October 3-25 require an entry fee of \$25. Submissions received during the final week of October 26-November 2 require an entry fee of \$30. Payment of the entry fee via credit card is required upon electronic submission of artwork.
- Submissions must be made electronically by completing the online form and uploading images of your entry piece(s) in the MTL Artist Entry Portal. Uploaded images must include the artwork's framing. Dimensions must include the frame.
- Links to the MTL Artist Entry Portal can also be found under the Artist Entry Sidebar on the Art Show's webpage: <https://marktwainlibrary.org/artshow>.
- Questions can be emailed to: [artist@marktwainlibrary.org](mailto:artist@marktwainlibrary.org).

### **Portfolios**

- Please be sure to indicate whether you intend to present a portfolio during your initial submission of artwork into the Artist Entry Portal.
- Artists will be invited to enter portfolio work after the jurying is complete. Portfolios are only accepted from artists whose primary work is juried into the show. The portfolio entry portal will be open November 16-22 for electronic submission.
- Accepted artists may submit up to twenty (20) portfolio works.
- Due to space limitations, the Art Show reserves the right to limit the quantity of portfolios.
- Portfolio works must be original artwork. No photography or reproduction prints will be accepted.
- Portfolio pieces are typically presented unframed. Matted works are preferred. If you submit a framed portfolio piece, the frame must be minimal (no more than 1.5 in. deep and 8 x 10 in. overall) and must fit into a portable portfolio. Framed portfolio pieces must maintain the character of a portable portfolio and must have a more informal presentation than works in the juried show.
- The artist must provide a rack or stand for display of the work.

- Portfolio pieces are handled by Art Show attendees, so please present them appropriately to withstand repeated handling.

### **Silent Auction**

- Artists are encouraged to donate one artwork to the lively Silent Auction. The library retains all proceeds from the sale of the donated artwork.
- The Silent Auction is completely independent of the juried show. Donations are not reviewed or selected by the Juror of the Art Show.
- Electronic submissions of donated Silent Auction works are made on the Artist Entry Portal at the same time submissions are made to the juried show.
- The in-library Silent Auction Gallery is only on exhibit during the Preview Reception, 7-10pm, Friday, December 1. Bidding for the Silent Auction will be conducted online and will end at 9:30pm on Friday, December 1. The artwork from successful bids may be removed by buyers at the end of that evening.
- All artwork must be framed, as appropriate. Please include the frame surrounding your work in the picture file you upload into the Artist Entry Portal.
- Instructions on delivery of Silent Auction pieces will be provided in the November 16 email notification of acceptance into the Art Show.

### **Biography**

- Artists are encouraged to share their updated biographies in the field provided on the Artist Entry Portal. The biographies will be available online in the Virtual Gallery during the run of the Art Show.
- A physical biography catalogue will be displayed during the Art Show, so please provide one (1) 8 ½ x 11-page printed biography for 2023 when you deliver your artwork.

### **Delivery of Artwork**

- Artwork juried into the show will be received at the library on Monday, November 27, 10am-2pm.
- Portfolios and Silent Auction donations will also be received on this day.
- Instructions for artwork delivery and labeling requirements will be provided in the November 16 email notification of acceptance into the Art Show.

### **Insurance of Artwork**

- Insurance for theft or damage will be provided by the Mark Twain Library from November 27, 2023, through December 11, 2023, inclusive. Any artwork remaining at the library after the designated pick-up windows is left at its own risk and will not be insured.
- Portfolio items are not covered by this insurance policy. Please display them properly to ensure safe handling and prevent damage or theft.

## **Awards**

- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Places, as well as a Juror's Award, will be bestowed. Additional awards may also be presented.

## **51<sup>st</sup> Annual Art Show Preview Reception**

- The Preview Reception is the first chance to behold the beauty of the works selected for the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Art Show! The reception is Friday, December 1, 7-10pm.
- Artists whose work is juried into the show will receive a link for a complimentary admission to the Art Show Preview Reception. Artists may invite one guest at a reduced entry of \$40.
- Attendance is limited, so we request your RSVP early to allow for ticket sales to patrons.

## **Exhibit Days & Hours**

- The 2023 Art Show will be open to the public from Saturday, December 2 through Sunday, December 10, during regular library hours. (Please refer to <https://marktwainlibrary.org/artshow> for up-to-date hours for visiting the Library Gallery in person).

## **Closing Reception**

- The closing reception will take place Sunday, December 10, 3-5pm.

## **Sales of Artwork**

- Artwork is available to view and purchase online via the Virtual Gallery, as well as in person in the Library Gallery until 5pm on December 10. Anyone, anywhere, can view the show and buy works online.
- Preview Reception ticket holders have first access to purchase works on December 1, followed by the general public on December 2-10.
- The Mark Twain Library shall retain a commission of 35% of the sale price on all juried and portfolio artwork sold during the Art Show. Artists will be mailed a check for 65% of the sale price via the USPS shortly after the close of the Art Show.

## **Pick Up of Unsold Artwork**

- Unsold artwork must be picked up by the artist (or authorized representative) at the library on Sunday, December 10, from 5-6pm, or on Monday, December 11, from 10am-12pm.
- Please – no early pickups of any artwork will be permitted before 5pm on Sunday, December 10. You must wait until after the conclusion of the Closing Reception (3-5pm).
- There will be a \$10 handling charge for late pickups.
- Sold artwork can also be picked up by buyers during these hours.

**Get up-to-date information on the library's website.**

- To keep abreast of programs and hours, please visit <https://marktwainlibrary.org/artshow>

**Summary of Art Show Notable Dates**

- Call to Artists | Entry Portal OPENS: Tuesday, October 3  
Note: a \$25 artist entry fee is required through October 25; a \$30 entry fee is required from October 26-November 2.
- Call to Artists | Entry Portal CLOSES: Thursday, November 2, 11:59pm
- Artists Notified of Acceptance into Show: Thursday, November 16, by 5pm
- Artists Drop Off Artwork: Monday, November 27 | 10am-2pm
- Preview Reception & Silent Auction: Friday, December 1 | 7-10pm
- Art Show Exhibition in the Library Gallery: December 2-10 during library hours
- Closing Reception: Sunday, December 10 | 3-5pm
- Artists Pick Up Unsold Artwork: Sunday, December 10 | 5-6pm, or  
Monday, December 11 | 10am-12pm

**Contacts**

For further information please email [artist@marktwainlibrary.org](mailto:artist@marktwainlibrary.org)

- Katherine Baumgartner, Exhibition Co-Chair
- Melinda Shea, Exhibition Co-Chair