Art and Fine Craft Show – Jury Preparation Suggestions

The Greater Milford Area Historical Society (GMAHS) is grateful to the artists who support Art Affaire. Each year we work at making the event more successful for everyone involved – artists, musicians, sponsors and GMAHS. As each artist is required to submit an application for jury review, we have compiled a list of suggestions for consideration.

Be sure your work fits the theme of the event
Art Affaire is an art and fine craft show. We encourage you to submit work that you are passionate about and love making; and, it should definitely be work that fits an overall art and fine craft theme. Art Affaire does not accept resale works, direct sales or cottage industry/makers works.

Photographing your art for the jury is an “Art”
Your images represent your voice to the jury, so make sure that voice comes through loud and clear. The jury process for Art Affaire is handled by a review of digital images. With the ease and accessibility of digital photography (even smartphones), it is tempting for artists to shoot their own images for juried shows. We realize it isn’t always cost effective to hire a professional photographer; however, we highly encourage you to research ways that capture your artwork in a manner that is eye-catching yet simplistic, in very good focus, in high-resolution and with a composition that clearly accentuates the work without including extraneous distractions. Try to capture only the art and avoid including cluttered background imagery.

Follow the Application Instructions
As stated on the Call to Artists instructions, all artists need to submit a minimum of four digital images of their work for jury review. A booth image, while nice for review, is currently not mandatory. Along with images you must include a statement or explanation of your work. The image explanation is different from a typical artist’s statement that focuses on personal motivation and background, as it should define your technique and/or materials; and provide input on what makes your art unique. If you have questions about image submissions, contact us email at artaffaire@milfordhistory.net for clarification.

Body of Work
We recommend you submit images that represent a cohesive collection, or body, of your work. If you do various types of art or fine craft, it is better to submit a series of images that depict a single focus or theme. For example, if you do watercolor, oils, and perhaps acrylics, choose one of those mediums for your jury submission; or, if you’re a fiber artist who does both fiber art and fiber wearables, it is better to concentrate your submission on one of those categories. And, to take that one step further, you should consider your choice of images for the jury based on the work you will be able to create for a booth display that appropriately represents your selected category.

While Art Affaire allows artists to display and sell related works, the committee expects that accepted artists will exhibit and sell works that support the images submitted and category indicated on their application. Note: If you are an artist who works in multiple categories, you need to consider photography for each category you want to enter. See the Call to Artists for more details, as artists who cross categories will need to complete separate applications (including separate jury fees) for each.

Comments from Participating Artists
Art Affaire is one of our favorite shows and kicks off our fall series!
We love being involved with Art Affaire, as it is one of the most organized shows we do!