

2026 PLEIN AIR ART EVENT AT TNMOT

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

\$350 Best in Show Award. Second place prize is \$250; third place prize is \$100. Downloadable flyers below.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION PLEIN AIR ART EVENT RULES

1. Registration and Consent

The registration fee for The National Museum of Transportation's (TNMOT's) Plein Air Art Event on Saturday, May 16, 2026, is \$10, due at time of registration online (see home page header), preferably no later than Monday, May 11, 2026. Event happens rain or shine. Registration is online at TNMOT's website, tnmot.org. By registering, you are acknowledging you understand and agree to abide by the rules stated herein.

- You are entering this event and painting and/or drawing at your own risk. The National Museum of Transportation will not be responsible for any injury or damage which occurs during this event.
- This event may be photographed, and video/sound recorded. You are consenting to being captured in images and video/sound recordings and such images and video/sound recordings may be used by The National Museum of Transportation in social media and promotional materials available to the general public now and in the future.
- You are also giving your permission for the free use of your name, images of artwork and/or picture by the museum or its agents in any account of this event.
- Email questions to museum@tnmot.org.

2. Location

The National Museum of Transportation is located at 2933 Barrett Station Road, which is the address of our Orthwein Visitor's Center. We request that you come in Entrance 1 (the main entrance) and park in Lot 1 by the Orthwein Visitor Welcome Center near the back drive. You'll see the check-in tent just up the hill. **Please do NOT park in Lot 2** since it is reserved for another event. Artists will be welcome to paint/draw anywhere on the grounds and near the Pollinary Park, with the latter acceptable as long as the artists are outside the perimeter of the Pollinary Park and are not obstructing any paths or entrances. Artists may also paint/draw inside the Earl C. Lindburg Automobile Center and the Orthwein Visitor's Center. Also, all artists **must use drop cloths** to protect TNMOT's grounds and floors. **Note:** If the sun is out full and/or the weather is extra warm/muggy, please consider painting inside one of our air-conditioned buildings, under our Roberts Pavilion, or in a shady spot. Long stretches of heat/sun exposure can creep up on you unawares and become dangerous. If you wait until you feel its effects, you've waited too long. Feel free to employ an umbrella. We care about your well-being. Thank you.

If Lot 1 is full, you may drive a short way further south on Barrett Station Road and park in the fenced in overflow lot east of Barrett Station Road across from the Museum's Administrative building (house).

3. Artistic Medium

- Any painting or drawing medium on canvas, board, or paper is allowed.
- **The back edge of the canvas, board, or paper will be stamped at the check-in tent on the service**

road that extends from Entrance 1 (parking lot 1). Park in Lot 1 and then walk your canvas, etc., up the short service road at the DO NOT ENTER sign on the west side of Lot 1; go to Suzanne at the tent that is past the green/teal steamrollers and past fire trucks, just before the train crossing. She will stamp the back edge. Please bring exact dollar amounts if you pay/register at the last minute that day.

- All work is to be completed during the hours of the competition.
- Photography, computer-generated images, and sculpture will not be accepted.

4. Schedule

Check-In:

- Check-in for stamping is between 9:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the day of the event. You'll find the check-in tent halfway up the back drive off Lot 1.
- Artists should bring their canvas, paper, or other support to be stamped by staff.
- Toned canvasses, papers, or supports can be used, but nothing pre-painted, pre-drawn, or in any way begun will be accepted.

Painting Deadline:

- Completed artwork should be returned to the Earl C. Lindburg Automobile Center between 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. for display for judging. Artists may want to familiarize themselves with the [map of our grounds](#) prior to May 16th. Our [tnmot.org](#) website shares our [artifact collection](#).
- Artists should supply an easel to display each piece of artwork if that is desired for presentation. Table easels will be permitted. If the artist does not have a display easel, please contact renee.hughes@tnmot.org so she can try to secure one at the Museum from our limited stock. The artwork will be placed flat on a table if no easels are available.
- Submissions will be limited to three. Staff will assist in setting up the display.

5. Judging

- Judging is hoped to be conducted on May 16th, but no later than within two weeks after the event, i.e., by end of day Saturday, May 30, 2026.
- Each piece of artwork must have the artist's name and a title specifying the subject's location.
- TNMOT is not liable for loss, theft, or damage of artwork. Winners will be announced on The National Museum of Transportation's [Facebook Page](#) and other social media outlets. The winners will be featured in The National Museum of Transportation's SPOKEn Word E-Newsletter. Winners may elect to have their checks mailed to them, or they may come to the Museum with a valid, current government-issued photo ID to retrieve their checks in person.

6. Eligibility

The competition is open to artists 18 and over and is limited to 20 participants.

7. Prizes

Cash prize will be \$350 for Best in Show; \$250 for second place; and \$100 for third place.

[Plein Air Poster Artists](#)

[Plein Air Poster Public](#)