

ART at the PORT

Summer Boardwalk Exhibition

HOW TO MAKE YOUR ART AT THE PORT ENTRY STAND OUT

Tips to help you create a winning entry

START NOW. Sometimes ideas for a painting come in a rush and you can immediately visualize exactly what you want to paint. Other times some mulling over is required. Art Panels will be available beginning on Wednesday, March 5 at Wright's. Here is everything you need to know to plan a great Art at the Port entry for 2025.

2025 THEME *Nautical Nuances*

PANEL SIZE and ORIENTATION:

- 16" x 24" panel. Art may be horizontal (landscape orientation) or vertical (portrait orientation).
- Panels are 3/4" plywood (one smooth side and one rough) and are pre-primed and ready to paint.

MEDIA AND SEALING:

- **All standard media are acceptable and have proved to withstand the elements, as long as the artwork is well sealed with multiple coats of a clear, nonyellowing sealer that is labeled for exterior use.** Acrylic seals itself. Oil, when dry, is easy to seal. Watercolor and photo paper require using glue that is not water soluble and several coats of sealer—see sealer suggestions below.
- In addition to the painted surface, be sure to seal the 3/4" edges of the panel. Unsealed edges may allow water inside the panel and water can cause the panel to swell and separate.

Sealer choices for various media:

1. Acrylic Dries fast and is self sealing. A good quality acrylic paint will hold up to the weather on its own. A spray sealer such as Krylon or Rustoleum may be used to further protect from scratches. If your pigment choice tends to fade in the sun, Minwax Helmsman spar urethane, which must be applied with a brush, is effective at preventing fading. Be cautious with craft acrylics—some are excellent and some are not waterproof or lightfast. *Do not use additives with acrylics unless you know for sure that they will hold up outdoors*—they alter the paint chemistry and its ability to seal and have created bubbling, cracking, peeling and general self destruction in past entries.
2. Oil Plan to get it finished early so it will be dry enough to be sealed. Rustoleum crystal clear enamel gloss for exterior use is a good locally available choice for oil paintings.
3. Watercolor, Ink, Pencil, and photos Create your art on your usual paper, glue it to the panel and **seal it well.**
SEALER: Same as for Acrylic paint—use multiple coats, or pour on an acrylic sealer
GLUE: Water soluble glue **will fail** with the first rain, even when you think you have sealed your art well. Use glue that is labeled non-water soluble or waterproof. Example: E600 craft adhesive (toxic so use in a well ventilated area). *Elmer's glue, hot glue guns, spray on glue and glue sticks have been tried and failed spectacularly.*
4. 3-D Objects such as shells, sand, ceramics, etc. may be attached to the front of the panel extending no more than 1 inch from the surface. Use waterproof glue & seal well.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

- All the basics of creating a good painting apply.
- Good contrast will help your painting look great from a distance.
- Paint the 3/4" edges of the panel. This is not required, but will make your painting more attractive and professional looking. Painting the edges serves as a frame. You may choose to paint the edges all one color or wrap the scene of your painting around the edges. Painting on the back side of the panel is not recommended—sealing it is.
- Do not attach any form of framing to the outside edges of the panel or in any way extend the panel beyond the original 16" x 24" dimensions—for example, do not put rope around the edges. You may paint a frame on the front surface of the panel and you may attach anything you like to the front of the panel as long as it does not extend more than one inch forward from the surface.
- Hanging hardware will be installed for you and does not affect the front/sides of the panel.

PIGMENT CHOICES:

It is not necessary to purchase the most expensive paints. It is also not recommended to use sub-standard, poor quality paint. All of the standard paint brands carried by Wright's or favorite online sources such as Cheap Joes, Dick Blick or Jerry's Artarama are good. Be cautious with craft acrylics—some are excellent and some are not waterproof or lightfast. Do not use additives with acrylics unless you know for sure that they will hold up outdoors—they alter the paint chemistry and its ability to seal.

ADVANCED PIGMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

To keep your painting from fading, it is a good idea to use pigments that are considered lightfast and are not fugitive. In general inorganic pigments are more reliably resistant to fading than organic ones. You can Google organic/inorganic pigments if you'd like to become an expert.

Here are some "fugitive" pigments to avoid for outdoor display:

1. These numbers are usually found on your paint tubes: PB27, PG8, PR48, PR83, PR112, PR170, PR177, PO13, PO16, PO64, PO73, PV14, PY40, PY55.
 2. Dye based products such as ecoline/ph martin radiant/fountain pen inks etc. as well as additives in all types of paint to make them "fluorescent", "neon" or "opera" colors.
 3. Rare pigments, such as Daniel Smith's Primatex Mayan colors, Rhodonite, Sicklerite. Natural and antiquity colors, such as Malachite, Azurite, Vivianite, Sodalite, NB1 natural Indigo Blue, NR9 Rose Madder (root plant), NBr8 (Van Dyke Brown, literally a dirt-brown).
- Some colors are only fugitive in very specific conditions, such as repeatedly prolonged hot sun, while in their diluted form. Some pigments fade due to environmental factors, such as humidity, PH/acidity levels, chemical reactions and heat.
 - Lightfast paint ratings conforming to standards set by ASTM International (originally ASTM, or American Society for Testing and Materials) are often printed on paint tubes. **ASTM lightfast paint ratings are indicated as I (excellent), II (good) or III (poor). Holbein uses asterisks to rate pigments with **** being absolutely permanent and * being a pigment you should avoid...*** should hold up well.**
 - Google your paint manufacturer for pigment information if it is not included on your tube or container.
 - If pigment considerations give you a headache and you are not a Google whiz, just paint your panel with a standard brand of paint and it likely won't fade much—or send us an email specifying your media and a list of your paint brands and color names for evaluation. Or, try brushing some clear Minwax Helmsman spar urethane over it, which should protect all but the most fugitive pigments.

Any questions about creating your Art at the Port entry? Email: artatport@charter.net