

250408 BRA MAIN SAIL ART FESTIVAL NORTH STRAUB PARK



Mainsail is an event not just an arts festival. It's something that you should see, or must see if you love anything about the arts. The quality and variety of the hand made , hand painted and sculpted works of art will surprise you. I don't think there's anything quite like it in this area .





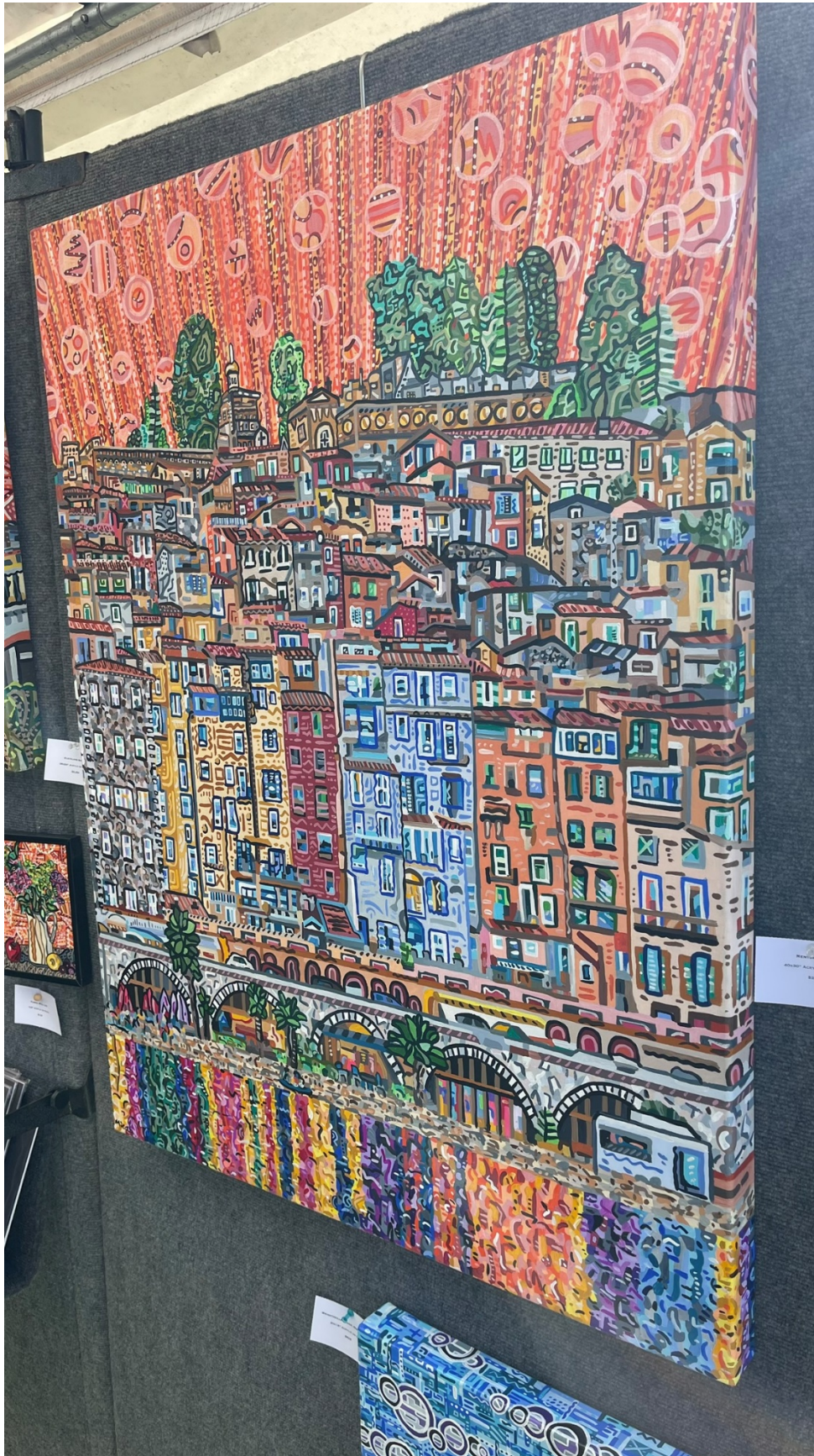
Every media used in art is represented at this festival. And these are individual artists that come from across the United States and the world. You will find crafts and art available at every price range up to the thousands of dollars.



Plan on spending at least two or three hours if you want to at a minimum walk through each booth. The festival is spread out across Straub Park and Has just under 300 vendors.



So far every festival date seems to be that perfect blend of temperature, humidity and sunshine that Florida is famous for. Today was no exception. But remember to bring hat, sunglasses and put your lotion on because it can get hot in the sun.



There's a tremendous number and a variety of paintings and original painted art at this festival. If you are a collector, or if you have a great Florida room that needs some color, then this is the festival for you.

What's nice about the festival is that the artist is there for you to talk to. They can explain their works better than anyone else and you are not in a art gallery facing an aggressive sales agent that doesn't know anything about the art they sell; just the price!



Wander around, take one lap around the festival and then double back to get your favorite items. I always shop for Christmas, birthdays and special occasions at this festival. You can find reasonably priced handmade artistic gifts which will be well received





Don't forget there are culinary arts as well located near the entrance to the Saint Petersburg harbor . There you can consume a light lunch or buy a glass of wine.

Mainsail is produced by nonprofit volunteer organizations. It has been holding the festival in St. Petersburg FL for 50 years. I have been coming to this festival since my early 30s and have never walked away without being amazed . I stated many times that the common perception is that there is no artistic talent in the United states any longer . But one afternoon spent at this festival will dispel that rumor completely .



And the creative variety is really endless. Artists come with different media, cultures and ideas and blend them into an art form that is unique . One thing the organizers do effectively for this festival is not to invite duplicate artists that produce similar media . You wind up with a stunning variety of art which go from leather, to wood and from glass , to clothing. There is something here for everyone I am sure .





The festival also has a competitive aspect. Confirming that we do have art for sale is the fact that we have a judged competition for the different media and artists. I have to assume that these ribbons are highly coveted for the artists and that they will use these in their marketing for sure. It would be a heady thing to win a place in this competition, given the incredible talent that is on display .



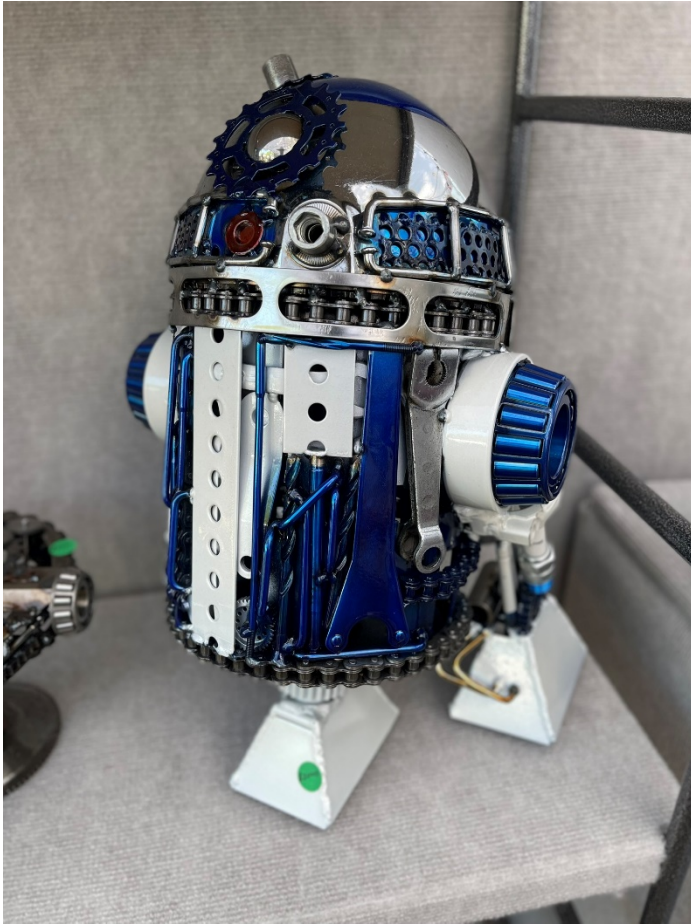
Last year I purchased some designer clothing produced by a firm in Atlanta . This clothing is worn in Ghana, Africa and it's hard not to fall in love with the bright colors. When I gave this gift to my daughter she was very impressed and could not believe I had found something so unique. That is the benefit of this festival.

But wander around, look at all of the options you have and then make a selection.





What my family does is to enter the festival at a certain location and then plan to explore each of the areas. Take your time and wander around and look and ask questions. The artists are more than happy to talk to you about their works. Or you will find that many times someone is already getting a deep dive description on the items of interest and you can just sit and listen. It's a great way to learn how some of these media are put together so beautifully .



Yes this is Star Wars memorabilia rendered in steel and iron. They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder so I am sure that there are Star Wars aficionados that will be more than happy to purchase these items.

To each his own . This vendor likewise had other artistic renderings made of iron and steel which were available, if Star Wars was not your particular favorite.





The park is located on Tampa Bay and we were fortunate today to have a easterly wind. This really cooled down the area as the temperature exceeded 80°F . The festival is a beautiful display of artistic talent located in just as beautiful a setting. Even if you buy nothing it's well worth your time to come, wander and see what this country has to offer in the form of art.



So every year in April mark your calendar. The Saint Petersburg , Florida mainsail art festival will be arriving soon. Oh yes, they do have T-shirts and memorabilia to purchase.

Bring a shopping bag and a good credit card. As I do, make a list for Christmas and birthdays and have it with you on your phone. Do some shopping and send that purchase to the hands of a local, regional, national or international artist. Trust me when you give these gifts they will be appreciated and remember. It will keep you coming back to these festivals for more.