



NEW JERSEY
HIGHLANDS
COALITION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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12th Annual Highlands Juried Art Exhibit ***Opening September 21, 2025 at Maxfield Engine House in Boonton***

CALL FOR ART ENTRIES

(Boonton, NJ) The New Jersey Highlands Coalition, in association with the Center for the Study of Cities and Small Towns (CSST) Foundation, announces the 12th Annual Highlands Juried Art Exhibit at the recently restored Maxfield Engine House in the heart of the Boonton Main Street Historic District. Accepted fine art, photography and sculpture inspired by the natural beauty of the Highlands will be shown September 21 through December 7, 2025.

"Both veteran and first-time exhibitors over the years have shared sensational vistas and intimate vignettes, expressing their authentic passion for this beautiful place and its unique importance," said **Exhibit Curator Donna Compton**. "This inspiring showcase of our natural, historical and cultural heritage is a compelling call to experience the Highlands for themselves, and to support our vital conservation efforts."

"Why does an environmental advocacy organization host an annual art exhibit?" Asked **Elliott Ruga, Policy and Communications Director at the NJ Highlands Coalition**.

"Because the Highlands Region is incredibly beautiful, it has a diversity of landscape types: from small river towns along the Delaware River; rolling farm fields and limestone cottages in the Musconetcong, Pohatcong and Lopatcong river valleys; dozens of glacial lakes and lake communities and an improbable, 340 square-mile mature, nearly contiguous forest, that is the least fragmented and most species diverse in New Jersey. Yes, the Highlands is worth protecting as a source of clean water for 6.2 million New Jersey residents, but artists are the advocates for protecting its natural beauty. This exhibit celebrates their creative expressions inspired by the Highlands and their commitment to protecting the source of their inspirations."

Artists (adults over the age of 18) are invited to submit works featuring the landscapes, flora, fauna, natural, cultural, or historic resources of the 4-state Highlands region, which includes parts of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A map of the region and a list of Highlands municipalities is available at

<https://highlandsart.org/about-the-highlands> (Please note that works depicting flora and fauna taken outside of the Highlands will be accepted as long as those species are also found within the Highlands region. Landscapes must be within the region).

Thanks to generous donors, a Grand Prize of \$300 will be awarded in each of two categories: Fine Art and Photography, in addition to Second Place and Third Place awards of \$200 and \$100 respectively. Jurors will consider two- and three-dimensional paintings, drawings, pastels, original prints (lithographs, etchings, monoprints, serigraphs etc.), mixed-media, sculpture and photography. Abstract images inspired by the Highlands are welcomed. *Images created with AI (Artificial Intelligence) will not be accepted.*

Winners in the categories of fine arts, photography and young artists will be announced at the exhibit opening reception on Sunday, September 21 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 713 Main Street, Boonton NJ.

Link to high resolution images that accompany this press release:

https://netorgft15061877-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/donna_comptongallery_com/EiOjwExmlalKsCccQiX3FE0BzbL3UrwFhIMAX-GA5T9Kww?e=MmpkHY

For complete art submission instructions and updates about the exhibit, please visit
<https://highlandsart.org/>

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ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION

Our mission is to protect, enhance and promote the vital water and other natural & cultural resources of the New Jersey Highlands. The Coalition represents a network of organizations and individuals in their common interest to protect the New Jersey Highlands and the quality and quantity of drinking water for 6.2 million people in New Jersey. <https://njhighlandscoalition.org/>

ABOUT THE MAXFIELD ENGINE HOUSE

The Center for the Study of Cities and Small Towns (CSST) Foundation renovated the firehouse according to a preservation study done by researchers from Penn Praxis at the Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. Constructed in 1893 by civic-minded Boonton citizens led by then City Council president, Esli B. Dawson, great, great grandfather of CSST board members, Ryan Dawson of Mendham and Rebecca Birch of New York City, the firehouse occupies a prominent location in the center of Boonton, NJ's Main Street Historic District. It has served a variety of functions since the town's fire engines became too large for its original use.

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