**The 22nd Annual Carmel Art Festival**

**May 14 – 17, 2015**

NEWS RELEASE

April 16, 2015

The 22nd Annual Carmel Art Festival will take place Thursday thru Sunday, May 14 -17, 2015 in beautiful downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea, California.  This four-day event celebrates Carmel’s rich history of being an artist community and provides a rich cultural and educational experience for the locals and visitors.

The event takes place on Mission Street between Ocean and 6th Street adjacent to Devendorf Park. The 1-block street will be closed for this FREE event starting Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17, 2015.

**Thursday, May 14, 2015** – 60 juried plein air artists in the competition can be seen all over the Monterey Peninsula painting for two days, Thursday and Friday, as they capture the images of the area’s natural beauty and history.   (Note, no functions will be held on Mission Street today.)

**Friday, May 15, 2015** – Starting at 4 PM, artists bring their newly painted plein air paintings to the Carmel Art Festival tent on Mission Street. Come and see these still-wet paintings that have been created during the past two days. Live entertainment and silent auction starts. The tent is lighted so people can walk around at their leisure throughout the evening.

**Saturday, May 16, 2015** – This is a full day of activities on Mission Street starting with judging between 8 and 10 AM. The silent auction continues throughout the day until 6 PM. In the afternoon, there is live entertainment. **Festival posters,** current and past ones plus **t-shirts**, are for sale throughout the weekend.

“**Kids Make Art**” table from 1 – 3 PM: The Youth Art Collective will lead kids in some creative fun art endeavors. All young kids are invited to participate FREE.

Other times to note: Meet the Artists, 3:30 pm – 5 pm; **Artist Awards Ceremony**, 5 pm; Live Auction, immediately follows Silent Auction estimated to be 6:15 pm.

During the early afternoon, attendees will be asked to vote for their favorite “**People’s Choice**” artist and painting, and the winner will be the 2016 Carmel Art Festival poster!

**Absentee bidding 12 NOON** – 6 PM: Can’t be at the festival but want to bid on a painting? At 12 NOON all 120 paintings will be shown on the Carmel Art Festival website [www.carmelartfestivalcalifornia.com](http://www.carmelartfestivalcalifornia.com) and “absentee bidding” is available until 6 PM.

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**Sunday, May 17, 2015** – Featured event in the morning between 9 AM – 11 AM is the **Quick Draw**. Winning artists of the festival have two hours to paint a painting in and around Carmel-by-the-Sea. These will be displayed and auctioned off between 11 AM and 11:30 AM on Mission Street.

Artists in the festival normally paint more than the two paintings submitted for judging into the festival. These will be hung in the tent for purchase on Sunday until 3 PM. These are straight sales at a specific price.

**60 artists in the competition:**

[www.carmelartfestivalcalifornia.com/entrants2015.html](http://www.carmelartfestivalcalifornia.com/entrants2015.html)

 These artists, some local but many travel to Carmel from around the country, can be seen during the festival painting outside.  Many can be seen on the beach but they can paint anywhere throughout Monterey County.  As a result, the paintings feature a wide variety of subjects.  And yes, all the paintings are wet, so don’t go touching them!  Festival planners laugh about how visitors react to this by reaching out to touch the wet canvas.  “It really is a unique experience to come and see these wonderful paintings and meet the artists who just painted them hours ago” says Tammi Tharp, one of the festival’s board members.  “Not only are the paintings wet, I remember once when an artist quickly brushed a favorite pet onto a beach scene to please a buyer.  Getting to meet the artist who painted the scene and have them sign the purchased painting is really special.  And, if you purchase one of the award winning paintings, you get to keep the ribbon.”

**And all around Carmel-by-the-Sea during the weekend:**

In addition to the official functions happening on Mission Street, there are gallery receptions and demonstrations taking place in a variety of galleries.  Times and locations are available in the FREE program distributed on Mission Street, the Carmel Art Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

**The Carmel Art Festival is a non-profit organization.  Proceeds from the Carmel Art Festival benefit local youth art programs.**

Website [www.carmelartfestivalcalifornia.com](http://www.carmelartfestivalcalifornia.com)

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