Marblehead Festival of Arts

Media Contact
Nancy Fromson
URL: www.marbleheadfestival.org
Press Release Archive: www.marbleheadfestival.org/press

Art Exhibits Highlight Marblehead Festival of Arts

Marblehead MA (June 11, 2010) – The Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA) will host its 45th annual Arts Festival in downtown Marblehead from July 1-5. This North Shore favorite is home to fine arts exhibits, including crafts, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture. Special exhibits include arts displays by seniors, students, and youth. Artists from all over Essex County participate in the many types of art, which take place at various venues around town. Exhibits, with free admission, are open Saturday, July 3, 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday, July 4, noon to 5 pm; and Monday, July 5, 10 am to 5 pm.

Awards Night, which officially opens the Festival, will be held Thursday evening, July 1, outside Abbot Hall, 188 Washington Street. The public is invited to share in this celebration, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, to recognize the artists who created outstanding original works in all of the juried categories. Art exhibits will then be open, from 7:45 to 9:00 pm, at Abbot Hall, St Michael's Church, Old Town House, Unitarian Universalist Church, and Old North Church.

Housed at Abbott Hall are Crafts, Drawing, Painting and Printmaking, all juried exhibits. Crafts features handcrafts of a traditional or contemporary nature including calligraphy, collage, furniture, jewelry, pottery, quilts and stained glass. Drawing has features charcoal, conte crayon, pencil, pen and ink and other drawing materials. Painting is done in oil, acrylic and watercolor. Printmaking features etching, engraving, drypoint, silkscreen, lithography, monoprint, woodcut engraving and other accepted forms of the art. Abbot Hall will also provide a video presentation of the photography exhibit.

St. Michael's Church, 26 Pleasant Street, is home to Mixed Media and Sculpture, both juried exhibits. Mixed Media is artwork in two or more traditional or nontraditional media in a single composition, with an emphasis on but not limited to paint, collage, drawing, image transfer, assemblage, paper mache, textiles, wax and found objects. Sculpture is art which has been cut, carved, chiseled, cast, welded or molded in any medium into a three dimensional form.

Photography is found at Old Town House in Market Square. It is a juried exhibit of black-and-white and color photographs. As Old Town House is not handicapped accessible, the entire photography exhibit may be viewed on a video at Abbot Hall.

The Unitarian Universalist Church, 28 Mugford Street, houses Senior Art, a non-juried exhibit of original work by persons 60 years of age and older. Categories include crafts, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and wood carvings. Also at the church is the Logo Exhibit, featuring this year's winning logo, the finalists and semi-finalists, and logos from past years; Writers' World, with a collection of juried short fiction, essays, and poetry; and Theatre Festival, this year featuring productions by the Rebel Shakespeare Company.

Old North Church, 35 Washington Street, has the non-juried Student Art and Youth Art Exhibits. Student Art, representing the work of students in grades 5-12, includes calligraphy, crafts, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture. Youth Art features works by students in preschool through grade 4, and includes crafts, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

The King Hooper Mansion, 8 Hooper Street, is home of the Marblehead Arts Association (MAA) and houses the Painting-the-Town Exhibit, ArcWorks, and the MAA Member Summer Exhibit. Painting-the-Town, or *plein aire* painting, features the work of artists who will have painted outdoors on Friday, July 2. They will create fresh works, often done rapidly, that capture the essence of a scene and the weather with a unique charm, unlike the more careful studies produced in a studio. ArcWorks, a guest exhibit housed in the Tea Room, is the work done by a guild for artists with physical or intellectual challenges.

For more information on exhibits and other Festival events, visit www.MarbleheadFestival.org.

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)
Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over the July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writer's World, the Street Festival, Artisans' Marketplace, and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year round and relies solely on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFoA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and

sponsorship, please call 781-639-ARTS or visit www.MarbleheadFestival.org.

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