

# ROCKPORT ART Festival FAQ

## GENERAL FESTIVAL QUESTIONS

### **What is the Rockport Art Festival?**

The Rockport Art Festival is a two-day, juried outdoor festival celebrating fine art and master crafts that takes place on (or around) July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend each year in Rockport, Texas, near the Rockport Beach Park and Rockport Center for the Arts.

### **What does a juried Art Festival mean?**

A juried festival means a juror or jury panel selects the artists who are invited to exhibit.

### **Who does the Rockport Art Festival benefit?**

The Rockport Art Festival is organized by the Rockport Center for the Arts and has been for over 40 years. It is the primary fundraiser that helps support exhibitions, educational programming and professional staff at the Art Center year-round.

### **Does the Rockport Art Festival take a percentage of artists' sales?**

No. The Rockport Art Festival charges a flat booth fee (+ add-ons like electricity and extra space if desired). Artists set their own prices, conduct their own transactions, and collect/report appropriate taxes.

### **Do I bring my own tent and display materials?**

Each artist booth space is approximately 10'x10' and covered by tent top to provide shade. The distance from pole to pole can vary up to 2 feet. The maximum height at the back of the provided booth space is 7 feet. Artists are responsible for all display equipment and it must be free-standing. The Rockport Art Festival tent structure cannot be used to secure display equipment. Each booth is part of a row of booths that also contain the customer walkway. If you purchase extra space (\$50), you may bring and erect your own tent, up to 10x10' square, across from the standard space. Keep in mind booth spaces can vary in size due to the placement of tent poles, chains and who sets up next to you. It's best to be flexible and expect to adapt to your specific space.

### **I'm confused about the provided space and the extra space. Explain?**

Contact us if you need further clarification. We will be glad to send you a photo with further details about our booth configuration. [rockportartfestival@gmail.com](mailto:rockportartfestival@gmail.com)

### **Is electrical service available? What equipment can I bring to plug in?**

Electrical service can be provided for an extra fee of \$60. Electricity must be purchased ahead of time as it will determine what set of booths you will be placed in (not all booths are set up for electrical service.) Electrical service is provided for artists to plug in standard wattage lights, fans, portable stereos, credit card machines and/or other portable electronic devices such as laptops, tablets and cell phone chargers. Each artist is allowed ONE plug. You may plug in a power strip AT YOUR OWN RISK. Rockport Art Festival does not guarantee timely repair of any electrical outlet due to overload. You may be asked to reduce your electrical use if it is deemed dangerous or detrimental to others. Failure to comply will result in not being invited back to the Rockport Art Festival in subsequent years.

### **What's this I hear about an Air Conditioned Tent?**

There is a large tent in the middle of festival grounds that is kept cool for artists and visitors to get out of the heat for awhile. It's also where the live music, beer booth and some of the food booths are located during the festival. We also hold our Auction Party (held just prior to the Festival) in this tent. Unfortunately no artist booths are located in the A/C tent.

### **Is my stuff secure when I leave it overnight?**

Rockport Art Festival provides overnight security and festival grounds are secured by a chain link fence. However, Rockport Art Festival is not responsible for loss or damage to your work for any reason, including weather, theft, or accident. See our full terms and conditions when applying to the festival.

### **Where should I stay if I am exhibiting or coming to the Festival?**

Hotels are usually full during July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in Rockport. Visit the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce or Google "Rockport Texas Hotels" to find an appropriate place for you. Hampton Inn, Best Western, Holiday Inn, and Days Inn are just a few chain hotels located near our festival.

### **Can I bring my dog to the Art Festival?**

We love animals, but NO PETS are allowed on Festival grounds at any time, unless you have proper documentation of the pet being a legal service animal. This rule is in place to comply with Aransas County Health Department guidelines, which restrict animals from being present in areas where food is being prepared. WE STRICTLY ENFORCE THIS RULE.

## [GENERAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS](#)

### **Why is the Rockport Art Festival Juried?**

Rockport Art Festival (RAF) is a juried show for two main reasons:

- 1) RAF receives more applications than it has booth space available.
- 2) Juried festivals ensure a level of quality in exhibited work.

### **When is the deadline for applications to the RAF?**

The application deadline is typically March 1 of each year. Check our website ([rockportartcenter.com](http://rockportartcenter.com)) under "Call for Entries" for this/next year's exact deadline.

### **How do I apply to exhibit and sell my artwork at the Rockport Art Festival?**

You can apply for the Rockport Art Festival via ZAPP ([zapplication.org](http://zapplication.org)). If you are a current ZAPP user, our call for entries and application are available in ZAPP.

At this time no paper application is available for Art Festival, if you have questions or need assistance in applying through Zapp, please contact the Art Center.

### **When are applications available and how can I be notified?**

The Art Center sends out notification through our free email list when the Art Festival online application goes live. Join now by visiting our website ([rockportartcenter.com](http://rockportartcenter.com)). Enter your email address in the bottom left corner under "Join our Email List." You will have the opportunity to select what topics you wish to be emailed about: *for example "Call for Entries," "Exhibitions," etc.*

You can also periodically check our "Call for Entries" page on our website ([rockportartcenter.com](http://rockportartcenter.com)). The Art Festival application is usually posted there in January each year.

### **How does the jury process for applications work?**

The jury process is conducted by a panel of artists or art professionals that score each applicant's images anonymously based on strictly visual criteria: style/originality/creativity and quality of craftsmanship -- both in content and presentation.

THE JURY REVIEWS 3 IMAGES ONLY (per artist), usually on a computer screen. This makes it ESPECIALLY important that the images you submit are not only your best work, but are also excellent representations of your best work.

If you have more than three images, select three that best represent your work. No extra images will be allowed. Jurors for the RAF DO NOT consider booth shots.

**Things the jury DOES NOT CONSIDER:** Your background, your resume, how many years you have exhibited at the Rockport Art Festival, where you are from, recommendations from friends, family or colleagues, your awards and publications, whether or not you are a member of Rockport Center for the Arts.

### **How does the jury decide how many painters to accept vs. sculptors, etc?**

The proportion of accepted artists in each category closely matches the percentage of applicants in each category. For example, if entries in the painting category make up roughly 20% of all applicants, then 20% of the Art Festival booths will be allocated to artists in the painting category.

## **IF YOU ARE INVITED TO EXHIBIT AT THE FESTIVAL**

### **How will I know if I've been invited and what happens next?**

Artists will be notified through the ZAPP system both via email and application status. Notifications generally arrive during the first week of April.

### **I've been invited but I have a conflict and cannot attend. Do I get a refund?**

If you have been invited to the Rockport Art Festival but cannot attend for any reason, simply "Decline" our invitation in ZAPP or notify us via email ([rockportartfestival@gmail.com](mailto:rockportartfestival@gmail.com)) that you cannot attend the festival.

Application fees are non-refundable, but if you have paid your booth fees, you may receive a refund (less a \$50 processing fee) up until June 1<sup>st</sup>. **After June 1, NO REFUNDS are made.**

## IF YOU ARE PLACED ON THE WAITING LIST

### **I've been put on the waitlist. How does that work?**

Sometimes we receive cancellations from artists that have been invited to exhibit in the Festival. Artists who didn't quite make the first round -- but whose scores are right on the threshold -- are put on the waiting list for a chance to exhibit if a cancellation occurs.

### **Can I find out where I am on the list?**

We do not disclose where you stand on the waiting list.

### **How do you choose which artist gets called first on the waiting list?**

If an artist cancels in the painting category, we select the next highest-scoring artist on the waiting list in the painting category, and so on with each category. If that artist accepts, the booth is filled. If that artist declines, the next highest-scoring artist in that category is offered the booth space.

### **I've been on the waitlist since April. How long do I have to wait?**

Unfortunately we cannot forecast when cancellations may occur. However, invited artists have until June 1 to cancel and receive a refund. We typically receive a number of cancellations on or before this date. After June 1, cancellations usually occur due to unforeseen circumstances, and in many cases occur right up to the last minute.

### **Should I go ahead and book a room and be ready in case of a last-minute cancellation?**

This is entirely up to you. Last-minute cancellations are due to unforeseen circumstances such as family emergencies, weather conditions, etc., and are entirely out of our control.

### **Can I show up at the Art Festival during set up to see if anyone has cancelled?**

If you have applied to the Art Festival and have been placed on the waiting list, you will be contacted if a booth becomes available in your category, and you are the next highest scoring artist on the waiting list. Artists on the waiting list are NOT allowed on festival grounds at any time during Artist check-in and set up. Failure to respect this policy will result in being asked to leave festival grounds and not being invited back under any circumstances.

### **I want to remove my name from the waitlist as I have another opportunity.**

No problem, just email [rockportartfestival@gmail.com](mailto:rockportartfestival@gmail.com) and indicate you'd like to be removed from the waitlist. You can also "withdraw" your application in ZAPP at any time

## IF YOU ARE DECLINED

### **Why have I been declined from the Rockport Art Festival?**

Please don't get discouraged if you have been declined from our Festival. We receive more applications than we have booths. We invite artists based on a system of scores given by a jury

panel. Every year a different group of jurors scores the entries, which means scores may vary each year. If you didn't get in this year, please apply again as a different set of eyes will be scoring the work next year!

### **What are the reasons for low scores?**

Many times our jury panel consists of artists, art teachers and/or art professionals who are accustomed to seeing a lot of artwork in a variety of mediums. The first and most common reason for low scores is image quality. For example, if you submit images that are out of focus, cropped awkwardly, or if there are other elements in the image that distract from the work itself, chances are the jury will not be impressed.

Remember, if you don't take excellent images of your work, another artist in your category probably does. If you aren't the best photographer, ask a friend or hire a photographer to take studio-quality images of your work. Your chances of being noticed will improve greatly.

### **I thought I had great images of my work. Now what?**

Sometimes you do your best to get great images of your work, but don't end up making it in a festival. Again, don't get discouraged, keep at it! Some categories are more competitive than others. For example -- in the Rockport Art Festival, *Painting* and *Jewelry* have the highest number of applicants; therefore those categories are much more competitive.

### **I have applied to Rockport several times and cannot get in. What do I have to do?**

Our best advice here is to keep trying: submit great images, continue improving your own work, and show in other festivals and fairs to get feedback on your work. Visit other art fairs and festivals (including the Rockport Art Festival) to see what your competition is like in your category.

### **I have been exhibiting at the Rockport Art Festival for years and this year I didn't get in. What is going on?**

The only method we use to invite artists is the juror's scores. Because the jury is different each year, the combined scores may not be consistent for each applicant from year to year. One year the jury may score your work high, the next year another artist may outscore you. We understand this may not work out in everyone's favor sometimes, but it is the nature of our process.

### **Do you give preference to local artists? Out-of-town artists? Loyal artists?**

The only method we use to invite artists is the juror's scores. We do not give preference to local artists, out-of-town artists, friend or family-recommended artists, new artists or artists that have exhibited at the Art Festival for years. Preference is given to the artists with the highest scores, which are determined by the jury panel.

### **What are my scores and who juried the work this year?**

We do not disclose or comment on jury scores. The jurors are normally announced the week prior to the Art Festival, as they will also be awarding Best of Media and Best of Show prizes during the Festival. Members of the entry jury are not always the same as the prize jury, and the jury is different every year.

## **[MORE INFO](#)**

**My Question is not answered here. How do I get help?**

If you have additional questions you may contact us by emailing [rockportartfestival@gmail.com](mailto:rockportartfestival@gmail.com), or calling Rockport Center for the Arts at 361.729.5519; Monday - Friday 10 am – 4 pm.