

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 weekend each year in Rockport, Texas, near the Rockport Beach Park.

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 55 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?

Rockport Art Festival provides the main tent structure that will create rows of adjacent artists booths as well as a shaded walkway. Each artist booth space is approximately 7.5' deep x 10' wide and covered by the provided tent top to provide shade. Just in front of the artist booth a walkway that must remain clear of display materials. Please note, the distance from pole to pole can vary up to 16 inches. As such, flexible display equipment is strongly encouraged. The maximum height at the back of the provided booth space is 7 feet. Artists are responsible for providing any desired display equipment. All display equipment must be freestanding.

Artist may choose to purchase the optional extra space (\$100 extra space fee) across from their walkway if so desired. If selecting the extra space, you may bring your own tent, up to 10'x15' to set up in your extra space. Again, we ask you to keep in mind booth spaces can vary in size due to the placement of tent poles and tent straps. It's best to be prepared for a flexible set-up and adapt to your specific space.

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

Electrical service may be selected as an optional add on extra fee of \$75. 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 booth 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 a while. It's also where the live music, beer garden 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 the festival grounds are secured by a chain link, or similar, 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 4th weekend in Rockport. We recommend making reservations early. Visit the Rockport Fulton Chamber of Commerce or Google "Rockport Texas Hotels" to find an appropriate place for you.

Can I bring my dog to the Art Festival?

We love animals, but NO PETS are allowed on Festival grounds at any time. Only service animals are allowed on the Festival grounds. 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 around March 1 of each year. Check our website (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). 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 application goes live the first week in January. The Art Center sends out notification on our website (www.rockportartfest.com), on our Facebook page, and through free email list when the Art Festival online application goes live.

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. Jurors change every year but are always comprised of artists and art-buyers.

The jury reviews three images per artist on a computer screen. It is important that the images you submit are not only your best work, but are also excellent *representations* of your best work. Poor photo quality can make great art look bad; so please make all efforts to have good photos. Jurors DO NOT consider booth shots.

Things the jury does not consider: artist's resume; past participation in the Rockport Art Festival; location; recommendations from friends, family or colleagues; awards and publications; and membership at 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 (karen@rockportartcenter.com) that you cannot attend the festival. Application fees are nonrefundable, but if you have paid your booth fees, you may receive a refund (less a \$50 processing fee) up until June 1st. After June 1st, 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?

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 karen@rockportartcenter.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?

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. Poor application images are another common reason for low scores – poor photos can make the best art look bad. And finally, all scores are subjective to the jurors' aesthetic. One of the reasons the jury panel changes every year is to allow for different art preferences and styles.

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? Things the jury does not consider: artist's resume; past participation in the Rockport Art Festival; location; recommendations from friends, family or colleagues; awards and publications; and membership at Rockport Center for the Arts.

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

We do not disclose or comment on jury scores.

MORE INFO

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

If you have additional questions you may contact us by emailing karen@rockportartcenter.com, or calling Rockport Center for the Arts at 361.729.5519; Monday Friday 10 am – 4 pm.