



Eligibility and Registration

2017 SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS ART IN THE PARK PLEIN AIR COMPETITION (Plein Air)

Plein Air is a juried open air painting competition open to all individuals age 14 and over. There is no cost to enter.

Artists will compete in one of two categories: High School Youth (age 14-17) or Adult. All participating artists must register by completing a Registration Form with Santa Clara County Parks (Parks) found at www.parkhere.org. Forms will be accepted in person or by mail at Parks Administration located at 298 Garden Hill Dr, Los Gatos, CA 95032, by fax at (408) 355-2290 or by phone if the Participant has email access at (408) 355-2201. Minors must have a parent or legal guardian sign their waiver to register.

Registered artists will receive confirmation of their registration by email. This confirmation may be used to waive parking fees at Martial Cottle County Park April 15-28. Proof of Plein Air registration must be presented at the entrance kiosk and/or clearly visible on the vehicle dashboard.

Plein Air paintings, artist name, likeness, statements, quotes, images, etc. may be used in promotion of Martial Cottle Park, Santa Clara County Parks, or the County of Santa Clara, in print, advertisement, internet, or social media.

QUICK DRAW COMPETITION (QUICK DRAW)

All registered artists are also eligible to participate in the Plein Air Quick Draw. Two Quick Draw events will be conducted during the course of the Plein Air. The dates/times for the Quick Draw events are April 20, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and April 23, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Separate registration is required!

The Quick Draw event escorts artists into the restricted area of Martial Cottle Park to paint the historic Cottle Ranch buildings. Each Quick Draw event is limited to the first 20 artists. Artists may only participate in one Quick Draw event. Quick Draw registration begins online and in person at Parks Administration at 8:00 a.m. on April 17 and closes 24-hours prior to the event. Artists may register onsite only if there is space available.

Artists should be prepared to arrive one hour prior to the competition to Stamp and Certify his/her canvas. Artists should arrive at the Visitor's Center 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the event. Start time for Quick Draw is firm and any artist not ready to go with certified canvas and all materials at the designated time will not be allowed to participate. No Late Entry will be granted. Finished products should not exceed 20" X 24" framed. Artists should be prepared to display their artwork on a self-provided easel for jury consideration immediately following the end of the competition.

Subject Matter – Painting the Valley of Heart's Delight

Plein Air artists will paint in the style of "plein air," or open air painting of what the eye can see. All work must be original and created entirely outdoors at the Martial Cottle County Park. Jurors will be evaluating how well the essence of Martial Cottle County Park and the Plein Air theme "Painting the Valley of Heart's Delight" is captured. A map of Martial Cottle County Park is available to artists to help direct them to specific areas of interest. However, any depiction of the park the artist feels captures the theme will be accepted.

About Martial Cottle County Park

Martial Cottle Park is located at 5283 Snell Avenue in San Jose. A vehicle parking pass must be clearly displayed on your dashboard or pay a \$6 parking fee. Martial Cottle Park was farmed continuously by the Cottle family for over 150 years and remains in agriculture today. You may wish to paint orchards, row crops, historic Valley Oak trees, the Discovery Farm, park trails, park or ranch buildings, or mountain and sky vistas. Artists may access the park to paint during normal park hours (8:00 a.m. to sunset).

Artwork Size and Certification

There is no size restriction for entries. Artwork surface must start off blank. Pre-toned canvas, paper or gessoed canvas is fine but must be Stamped and Certified no earlier than April 15, 9:00 a.m. and no later than April 27, 4:00 p.m. in order to be submitted for jury consideration.

INITIAL ARTWORK SURFACE CERTIFICATION

Artists must bring their blank surfaces to Martial Cottle Park's Visitor Center on April 15 between 9:00 a.m. and noon PDT for certification. Multiple surfaces can be certified, but only two can be submitted for jury consideration.

Mediums Accepted

Artists may use pastel, oil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, graphite, charcoal, pen and ink, and/or mixed media. Photography is not allowed.

Submitted Work

Artists may submit up to two (2) pieces of 2-D exhibit-ready artwork. Artwork must be framed, unless using a wrapped canvas in which case all sides must be painted. All artwork must be wired for hanging and must have the certification stamp visible on the back.

Artwork must be submitted in person to Parks Administration, located at 298 Garden Hill Dr., Los Gatos, before April 28, 3:00 p.m.

Artist Statement

Artists may include an artist statement of no more than 100 words to accompany their artwork while on exhibition or while represented on the Parks Department website. Artist statements must be submitted at the same time the artwork is submitted. Santa Clara County Parks is not required to use, promote, or display the artist statement and will do so at its sole discretion.

Exhibition

PARKS DEPARTMENT INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Submitted Plein Air entries should be accompanied by a digital image (.jpeg) of the artwork no less than 1000 megapixels. If submitted without a digital image, the Parks Department will create an image of the artwork for use.

Submitted Plein Air entries will be on display on the Parks Department website and social media sites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter). Artist statements may or may not be included. These platforms will provide the public with the ability to vote for their favorite submission. Voting will occur between May 1, 8:00 a.m. and May 5, 5:00 p.m. People's Choice awards will be given for the highest number of votes in each category.

GALLERY

Jury selected artwork will be on display at the Santa Clara County Government Center at 70 West Hedding, San Jose from May 1, 8:00 a.m. through May 5, 5:00pm. Artists will be identified by first name and city. Information will be available to the public to direct them to the Parks Department website to vote for their favorite.

MARTIAL COTTLE COUNTY PARK SPRING CELEBRATION

Jury selected artwork will be on display at the Santa Clara County Parks event A Taste of the Valley of Heart's Delight: Celebrating Martial Cottle Park (Spring Celebration) on May 6. The event will take place 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Martial Cottle Park. Artists must collect their artwork from Martial Cottle Park between 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on May 6.

Judging

PLEIN AIR

Artwork will be judged for composition, originality, presentation, skill, technique and capturing the spirit of Martial Cottle Park *plein air*, in two categories: High School Youth (age 14-18) and Adults.

Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd will be selected by the jury.

People's Choice Awards in each category through voting on Parks Department social media outlets May 1, 8:00 a.m. through May 5, 5:00 p.m. The paintings with the most public votes in each category will be named People's Choice.

One Grand Jury Winner will be selected from Plein Air entries by the jury regardless of age category.

QUICK DRAW

Two Quick Draw competitions will be conducted each with a maximum of 20 participants. Immediately following the competition time entries will be juried. One Quick Draw winner for each competition will be selected by the jury.

Awards

The award ceremony will take place at Martial Cottle County Park's Spring Celebration on May 6 at 2:00 p.m. Certificates for both Plein Air and Quick Draw will be presented at this time.

RECOGNITION

Internet/Social Media – All Plein Air entries (not including Quick Draw) will be displayed on the Parks Department website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.

County Government Center (CGC) Gallery – Jury selected entries will be on display at the CGC May 1 – May 5. Artists will be recognized by first name and city. The CGC is located at 70 West Hedding St., San Jose.

Spring Celebration Gallery – Jury selected entries from Plein Air and Quick Draw will be on display at the Martial Cottle County Park Spring Celebration on May 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Spring Celebration Reception – An opportunity for artists to come together in camaraderie to celebrate the art of plein air and their own accomplishments. Reception will be held immediately preceding the awards ceremony at the Martial Cottle County Park Spring Celebration on May 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors – All Plein Air and Quick Draw winners will be recognized by the Board of Supervisors at a special presentation held on Monday, June 5 at 2:00 p.m. The Board conducts its meetings in the Board Chambers located inside the CGC.

Prizes

PLEIN AIR

Plein Air 1st place winners, People's Choice winners, and the Grand Jury winner will receive an Annual Pass to Santa Clara County Parks and consideration to become a Santa Clara County Parks Artist in Residence. Gifts certificates will be awards to 1st place winners (\$100 each) and Grand Jury winner (\$200).

QUICK DRAW

Quick Draw winners will receive an invitation to become a Santa Clara County Parks Artist in Residence.

Prize Chart

| <i>Categories</i> | Parks Dept. Website / social media | CGC Gallery – Jury Selections | Spring Celebration Gallery – Jury Selections | Spring Celebration Reception | 1st, 2nd, 3rd Awards | Category Winner Awards | Santa Clara County Parks Annual Pass | \$100 Gift Certificate University Art | AiR Invitation |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| <i>Quick Draw</i> | | | X | X | | X | | | X |
| <i>Plein Air Youth</i> | X | X | X | X | X | | 1 st | \$100 | 1 st |
| <i>Plein Air Adult</i> | X | X | X | X | X | | 1 st | \$100 | 1 st |
| <i>People’s Choice Youth</i> | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| <i>People’s Choice Adult</i> | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| <i>Grand Jury Winner</i> | X | X | X | X | | X | X | \$200 | X |

Important Dates

All times listed are in Pacific Daylight Time.

- April 11: Registration begins online at www.parkhere.org or in person at Parks Administration – 298 Garden Hill Dr. in Los Gatos (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- April 15: Certify your canvas/surface at Martial Cottle County Park’s Visitor Center (9:00 a.m. – noon.)
- April 15: Paint outdoors at Martial Cottle Park during regular park hours (8:00 a.m. to sunset).
- 28:
- April 17: Quick Draw registration opens online or in person at Parks Administration (8:00 a.m.)
- April 20: Quick Draw competition at Martial Cottle County Park (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)
- April 23: Quick Draw competition at Martial Cottle County Park (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- April 27: Last day to certify your canvas/surface at Parks Administration (4:00 p.m.)
- April 28: Final entries due in person at Parks Administration (3:00 p.m.)
- May 1 – 5: CGC Gallery at 70 West Hedding St. San Jose (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- May 6: Martial Cottle Park Spring Celebration (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- May 6: Artist Reception – Spring Celebration (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
- May 6: Plein Air Winners Announced – Spring Celebration (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- May 6: Plain Air artwork pick-up at Spring Celebration (3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- May 9: Winner’s Affidavits – Artist in Residence Agreements due at Parks Administration (4:00 p.m.)
- June 5: Board of Supervisors Recognition Ceremony at CGC (2:00 p.m.) – Presentation of Awards
- June 30: Final day to pick up artwork at Parks Administration