



Virginia Highlands Festival  
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High-resolution photos may be downloaded from the  
website [www.VaHighlandsFestival.org](http://www.VaHighlandsFestival.org)

NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“CREATE” AND CURATE YOUR ART COLLECTION AT  
THE 71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS FESTIVAL  
JURIED FINE ARTS COMPETITION AND GALLERY  
FESTIVAL DATES: July 26 - August 4**

ABINGDON, Va./June 17, 2019/ – Art lovers, curators, and collectors applaud the Juried Fine Art Competition and Gallery at the Abingdon Arts Depot as part of the 71st annual Virginia Highlands Festival.

More than 100 works of art by local and regional artists will be submitted to the gallery for consideration and review by juror, Suzanne Dittenber of University of North Carolina - Asheville. Dittenber will confer cash prizes for many winners at the awards ceremony on Thursday, July 25 at 5:30 PM, and the pieces selected for the exhibition will be on display from July 26th through August 4th at the Abingdon Arts Depot. One People’s Choice prize will be awarded by public popular vote at the end of this year’s Festival.

Many of these works displayed in the gallery will also be for sale during the Festival. The Festival’s commission on art sales helps support the Juried Fine Art programs and prizes.

“This is a distinct opportunity to see the work of a wide variety of talented local artists,” said Becky Caldwell, Executive Director.

Below is a list of the specific Juried Fine Art events.

**Juried Fine Arts Exhibit** - The Fine Arts Committee of the 71st Annual Virginia Highlands Festival is excited to announce the 2019 Juried Fine Arts Exhibit at the Abingdon Arts Depot. All entries will be accepted for consideration at the Abingdon Arts Depot on Saturday, July 20 and

Sunday, July 21st from 2-5 PM. More than \$3,000 in cash prizes will be awarded for work selected by our juror, Suzanne Dittenber of UNC Asheville. Following our annual tradition, this year's juror will give a presentation on Thursday evening prior to the festival to announce award recipients and discuss the selection of their work. Much of the art on display at the Festival Gallery will be for sale, making this a great opportunity for art enthusiast to add to their collection!

Friday, July 26 to Sunday August 4 - 10:00am to 5:00pm, except on Sundays July 28 and August 4 - 1:00 to 5:00pm. Admission is free.

**For Visitors: 2019 Juried Fine Arts Awards Ceremony** - The Fine Arts Committee of the 71st Annual Virginia Highlands Festival cordially invites you to attend the 2019 Juried Fine Arts Award Ceremony on Thursday, July 25 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Admission is free.

**For Artists: Fine Art Intake Days**

Artists should bring submissions to the Arts Depot at 314 Depot Square, Abingdon on July 20 or 21 from 2-5 PM. Submission fee is \$20 per entry, and must be submitted no later than 5pm July 21.

For a complete listing of the 200-plus Festival activities happening from July 26-August 4, including registration requirements, advance ticket purchases, parking and trolley info, and more, visit [www.vahighlandsfestival.org](http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org) or pick up a program guide at Food City locations near you.

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**About the Virginia Highlands Festival:** Founded in 1948, the Virginia Highlands Festival is an annual, ten-day event devoted to the celebration of Southwest Virginia heritage and rich Appalachian tradition. Held in historic Abingdon, Virginia, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Festival attracts thousands of visitors each year. The Festival was selected as the "Best Art Event" by the readers of *Virginia Living* magazine in 2019, recognized as a Top 20 Event by the Southeastern Tourism Society and was named as Blue Ridge Country's Best Non-Music Festival in 2018. The 71<sup>st</sup> Virginia Highlands Festival will run from July 26-August 4 (Antiques Market July 27- August 4) and feature live concerts, a juried arts and crafts show, and an antique market, as well as workshops, lectures and tours. To learn more about the Virginia Highlands Festival and this year's events, please visit <http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org>