

Georgia's Rome Plein Air Showcase — Rain or Shine!

Dear Artists,

We're looking forward to welcoming you to the Georgia's Rome Plein Air Showcase! As you prepare for the event, we want to remind everyone that the showcase will take place if rain or shine.

While rain may not seem like the ideal plein air painting weather, we encourage you to think of it as an opportunity—and even a challenge. Some of the most interesting plein air paintings can come from days when the weather is less than perfect. Overcast skies can create soft, natural light, deepen colors, bring out reflections, and reveal a different side of familiar places.

And remember you can't win a cash prize if you don't put yourself in the competition!

Whether you're an experienced plein air painter or trying it for the very first time, you are gaining valuable experience simply by participating.

Where To Paint: Rainy-Day Painting Opportunities in Downtown Rome

If the weather is wet, there are still lots of options for painting in plein air while staying reasonably protected. Consider:

- **Paint from a coffee shop** — Find a window view and capture the activity of downtown while staying warm and dry.
- **Sidewalk overhangs along Broad Street** — There are many storefronts and covered areas that provide shelter while still giving you a great street view. (Please be mindful of businesses as you choose your painting location. Avoid blocking entrances or setting up at an outdoor restaurant table that may be needed for customers later in the day.)
- **Rome City Hall** — The large overhang provides a protected place to work while remaining in the heart of the painting district.
- **The Carnegie Building** — Located next to City Hall, its overhang provides another excellent sheltered option.

- **Rome Area History Center** — Take some time to explore the inspirational exhibits inside and look for a subject or viewpoint that catches your eye.
- **Second Floor above the Rome Area History Center (Broadview Event Venue)** — Take the elevator in the back of the History Center to the 2nd floor. This space offers several large windows with wonderful views of the surrounding area. You can paint the scene from the windows while still working from life.
- **The Forum front entrance overhang** — Paint while looking towards the Town Green from under the covered area. (Avoid blocking the path to the far right two doors by the doorbell – these are the main two doors used for guest entry/exit).
- **The Forum back overhang** — Paint while looking towards the river from under the covered area at the back staircase entrance. (Avoid painting in covered entrances located on W 1st Street these are side, load in entrances for events.)
- **Parking Decks** — The 3rd Avenue Parking Deck has great views of the pedestrian bridge over the river.
- **Your car** — When necessary, your vehicle can become your studio! You can paint from inside your car while observing the scene directly. Many vehicles have a lift gate trunk door that can serve as rain shelter to paint under.

Remember, plein air doesn't necessarily mean standing completely exposed to the elements. The goal is to observe and respond to the actual scene around you. A covered location, window view, porch, overhang, or even your car can give you the opportunity to continue painting from life.

Check-In / Check-Out

Check-in and check-out times will remain the same, regardless of the weather.

If Fiddlin' Fest must ultimately be canceled due to weather, and we can't host a tent outside, we will host the return check-in at the Rome Area History Center. Judging and cash prize announcements will take place on the 2nd Floor above the Rome Area History Center at the space called "Broadview". We will post paintings for an online "Wet Paint Sale".

Friday Night Meet & Greet at Foundry on Fifth – 5:30 PM

The Friday night Artist Meet & Greet at Foundry on Fifth will simply move inside if the weather is rainy. We hope you will join us at 5:30 p.m. to meet and get to know other artists in our community.

A Few More Words of Encouragement

Professional plein air artist Roos Schuring, whose work has been featured in [OutdoorPainter](#), has made painting in challenging weather a significant part of her practice. Her perspective is a great reminder that all weather can be good weather for painting. Rather than waiting for perfect sunshine, she looks for the beauty that appears in rain, clouds, reflections, movement, and changing light. She encourages artists to embrace the challenge, remember what they want to capture, and not be afraid to let the weather become part of the painting.

If this is your first plein air showcase, don't let the weather—or the idea of competing—intimidate you. This event is a wonderful opportunity to get experience painting on location, working within a set timeframe, making decisions quickly, and responding to changing light and conditions.

One of the great lessons of plein air painting is learning to work through the unexpected. The weather changes. The light changes. People walk through your scene. Your original idea may need to change. That's part of the challenge—and part of what makes plein air painting so exciting.

As Schuring notes, difficult circumstances can sometimes push an artist to make stronger work. So if we have a cloudy or rainy day, look for the beauty that comes with it. Look for reflections in wet pavement, glowing windows, interesting shadows beneath awnings, muted colors, dramatic skies, and the way people move through the streets.

There may be a painting waiting for you precisely because it rained.

Rain or shine, happy painting!

We can't wait to see you in Georgia's Rome.

Warmly,

Kristi Kent

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