



Plein Air 2009

Writing Exhibition Registration Guidelines

Columbia Center for the Arts (CCA), located in the heart of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, will host its fifth annual **Pacific Northwest Plein Air Painting Competition & Writing Exhibition** from August 27 to 31, 2009. Artists are invited to spend five days visiting some of the most visually remarkable sites in the Gorge and putting their impressions on canvas or paper to share with the public.

The writing portion of the Plein Air show is an open-call event that culminates in publication on the CCA website and a public reading in the CCA theater*. Writing can be prose or poetry (or any combination thereof). **The registration fee is \$15.** Registered participants receive a location map, invitation to the opening reception on August 27, submission and public-reading guidelines, and a "goody bag."

Important Dates

August 7	Registration deadline
August 27 – 31	Write-out days, locations TBD
September 1	Submission deadline
September 20	Public reading & online anthology launch party, 7 to 9 p.m.

The painting exhibit will open September 4 and run through the end of the month.



Columbia Gorge



Mt. Adams

Photographs by Darryl Lloyd

**The public reading may become an invitational if more people express interest than can be accommodated during one evening.*

Frequently Asked Questions

What is plein air?

En plein air is a French term for painting in the out-of-doors with the goal of capturing a moment—the lighting, the clouds, the mood—as quickly as possible.

How does a writer do this?

While plein air painting is popular across the country, Columbia Center for the Arts is (as far as we can tell) the only organization that includes writers. The idea for writers is essentially the same: capture a moment before it disappears. Of course, writers are not bound to re-create visual portraits of the landscape—the “moment” might involve other people in the area, sounds or conversations overheard, smells and sensations, or even inner thoughts. The goal is to capture a snippet of time as deftly and quickly as possible and paint a picture for others to “see.”

Do I have to be present each day to participate?

It’s the most fun to go to the scheduled venue and join the other writers and painters at work, but it is not a requirement. However, it is a requirement that the piece you submit for publication and/or present at the public reading be something that was created during this year’s plein air event.

Should I revise my piece before I submit it?

Minimally—while you want to present your best work, you don’t want to lose the “in-the-moment-ness” with which you wrote it.

Visit <http://pleinairwriting.blogspot.com> for more information, and http://www.columbiaarts.org/more-arts/2008/Plein_Air_Writing/toc.html to view the 2008 online anthology, *Pears Like Copper Buddhas*.

Columbia Center for the Arts is a nonprofit arts center whose mission is to promote an arts-rich environment in the Columbia Gorge, in which novices as well as established artists and performers discover and develop their full creative potential. CCA supports visual, literary and theater arts exhibition and education from its location in a former American Legion hall in downtown Hood River, Oregon. For more information, visit the website: www.columbiaarts.org.





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Writing Exhibition Entry & Release Form

Please indicate:

- I would like to participate in the 2009 Plein Air Writing Exhibition.
- I plan to submit one piece for publication on the CCA website.
- I would like to be considered for the public reading on September 20.
- I have read the registration guidelines.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Area Code/Telephone #:

E-mail:

Agreement

By signing below, I indicate that I have read the guidelines for the 2009 Plein Air Writing Exhibition and agree to the terms and conditions indicated therein. I hereby release Columbia Center for the Arts, an Oregon nonprofit corporation, its employees, agents, officers, directors, successors and assigns for, from and against any and all claims and liabilities (including those based upon negligence) arising out of or in connection with my participation in the various Plein Air events being held in the Hood River, Oregon, area. I understand that I am responsible for any creative writing that I produce.

Signature

Date

How did you hear about this event?

The **registration fee is \$15**, payable by cash, check (to "Columbia Center for the Arts") or VISA/MasterCard. For credit-card payments, please indicate:

VISA

MC

Name on card:

Card Number:

Expiration date:

Submit this form and registration fee by **August 7, 2009**, to:

Columbia Center for the Arts
Attn: Plein Air Writing Exhibition
P.O. Box 1543
Hood River, OR 97031

A confirmation letter will be sent to you after the Aug. 7 deadline.