



You Gotta Have Art

West Bloomfield hosts Orchard Lake Fine Art Show for 16th year

The United States is home to thousands of art shows, fairs and festivals every year. Only a few of those are consistently voted among the top 100 of their genre, and one of those that fits into that elite category is HotWorks.org's Orchard Lake Fine Art Show.

Hosted by Hot Works, the 16th annual incarnation of the show will be held once again in the heart of West Bloomfield at Powers and Daly Roads, with the festivities taking place on Saturday, July 28 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, July 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission to the show, which will likely feature close to 150 exhibitors, is \$5. Those 13 and under get in for free.

The Orchard Lake Fine Art Show is a juried competition, which means exhibitors' work will be judged by a jury of art professionals based on a set of criteria specific to the show. In order to compete for up to \$2,500 in professional artist awards, the artists must be displaying their own original work and must be present.

Entries include paintings, clay, glass, sculpture, fiber, wood, jewelry and photography, among other categories. The event reaches as many as 10,000 patrons from throughout Metro Detroit and beyond.

As part of its commitment to bring art education into the community, the art show features a youth art competition for ages 5 through 13. Sponsored by Performance Residential Remodeling and the associated 501c3 non-profit, Institute for the Arts & Education, the youth entries will be publicly displayed and professionally judged, with \$250 in cash prizes available for the youth participants – to be awarded at an award ceremony at 3 p.m. on the final day of the show.

The Orchard Lake Fine Art Show's creator, Patty Narozny, has been passionate about art since she was a child.

"I'm one of those kids who was very creative growing up," Narozny said. "I went to a Catholic school, and when the art program got cut, my dad said I should be an accountant or a lawyer."



So, following her father's advice, Narozny got a degree in corporate finance from Wayne State University. She worked in the finance field for years before moving on to WDIV, the *Metro Times* and doing special events located within the city of Detroit.

Along the way, Narozny found a mentor in renowned artist Roy Schallenberg, who helped her make connections that would ultimately lead her to Anne Kuffler, owner of Ariana Gallery in Royal Oak, who steered her in the right direction and helped set the stage for her successful Orchard Lake efforts.

Highly regarded photographer Les Lesnick also played a crucial role in the show's development – serving as judge for eight years.

"As one of the top photographers in the world, Les taught me a lot," Narozny said.

Prior to running the Orchard Lake show, Narozny worked on a number of events in Detroit, including the Detroit Festival of Arts and the Michigan Taste Fest. While she still does some other events – including Boca Raton, Naples, and a new show that just debuted in Asheville last year – she considers Orchard Lake her flagship show.

One key to the show's success is its ability to attract those who represent the other end of the equation. You also have to attract those who represent the other side of the transaction.

"We bring patrons to the art show who attend because they love and appreciate great art, they come to see and purchase

great art" Narozny said. "We also have excellent vendors and quality local restaurants including Motor City Casino's Iridescence, Noodles World Kitchen, Jackson's Five Star Catering, and Sweetwater Tavern."

Those who attend will also enjoy music and performing arts, which Narozny described as low-key in character. Highlights include Detroit Social Band on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., One Love Reggae on Saturday from 1 to 5:30 p.m., and the Sheila Landis Trio on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Another thing attendees can count on is a strong commitment to ensure that the works of art they see are authentic. Narozny said she's learned a great deal during her years of running shows about how to ensure an artist who wants to exhibit is doing legitimate work.

Some of that involves going to artists' studios and checking to see if their work is signed. The trained eye can spot a replica. Even trips to flea markets and places like Bed, Bath and Beyond can help one to understand the difference between genuine, original art and manufactured product.

This year's poster artist is Marvin "Murf" Murphy, whose work is featured in the colorful new banners you might see on display on Orchard Lake Road. A painter, the Fort Lauderdale native has won top awards at shows across the country.

One of the local artists featured is glass/mixed media artist Stan Megdall, a West Bloomfield resident whose latest work is

Orchard Lake Fine Art Show

When: Saturday, July 28
from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday, July 29
from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Powers and Daly Roads

Admission: \$5 per person.
Free to 13 and under.

For Information: Visit hotworks.org

about to become a permanent installation in the community.

Although the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show is considered a mid-sized show with around 150 exhibitors, it has been consistently recognized as one of the nation's best. With its emphasis on visual arts, cultural diversity, community enrichment and youth art education, the show's continued success reflects the commitment of its organizers to keep the show among the most highly regarded in its genre.

"We want to thank West Bloomfield Township for allowing us to bring the event here for many, many years," Narozny said. "We also want to thank the Police Department for keeping our event safe, and the owner of the West Bloomfield Plaza, Brian, for allowing us to invade their space."

Those who wish to attend the show will find plenty of parking behind the Beaumont Medical Center at 6900 Orchard Lake Road. Come enjoy the art, the music, the food and the company of fellow West Bloomfield community members! See Art, Love Art, Buy Art – See You There!

