

Artists hope fine art show in Fort Myers will help them rebound amid the pandemic

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Several artists who will be at this weekend's Estero Fine Art Show say the pandemic is what inspired the work they'll be showcasing. Artist Tom Radca says he started experimenting after COVID kept him at his farm in Ohio with time on his hands. Somebody dropped off some beautiful blue bottles at his farm, and he decided to see if he could fuse that glass to the surface of his tile. What you see in the piece on the right is a combination of windshield glass and blue liquor bottles, and the process is referred to as upcycling.

FORT MYERS, Fla-- Setup is underway for Hot Works' 24th Estero 'Open Air' Fine Art Show at JetBlue Park. The event will kick off the Florida Art Show Season and offer Southwest Floridians a fun and safe way to ring in the New Year. The show is running Saturday through Sunday. A number of changes have been implemented to keep people safe at the show amid the pandemic. The event will be held outdoors, all booths will be placed at least six feet apart, there will be sanitizing stations, and face coverings are recommended. This is a juried fine art and fine craft show.

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The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. There is free admission. Parking costs \$5 and supports Institute for the Arts & Education, Inc. The nonprofit focuses on visual arts, community enrichment, cultural diversity, and fostering art education among youth.

The following presentations are also planned:

1. **Sat Jan 2, 3:00 p.m. ‘ Prize Patrol’** – \$1,500 Professional Artist Awards based on technique/execution, originality, and booth appearance
2. **Sun, Jan 3, 3:00 p.m.** – ‘Youth Art Competition’ \$250 awards presented – this unique and one-of-a-kind program encourages students in grades K-8 or ages 5-13 to enter his/her original and personally handmade art into the Youth Art Competition integrated within the art show - students are exposed to the rules and entrepreneurship opportunity doing art shows for a living