



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 14, 2020

**\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY \*\*\***

***EN PLEIN AIR OPENS THIS SATURDAY***

*Local Artists Debut Plein Air Paintings in New Cheekwood Exhibition*

**WHAT:** *En Plein Air* Opens This Saturday

**WHERE:** Cheekwood  
1200 Forrest Park Drive  
Nashville, TN 37205

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 18, 2020

During the month of June, Cheekwood invited distinguished Nashville artists to gather across the grounds as a public display of painterly talent and nature appreciation, creating original work for a juried exhibition entitled *En Plein Air*. The exhibition opens to the public this weekend alongside the grand opening of *Chihuly at Cheekwood*.

*En Plein Air* features works by local artists Stacy Beam, Richard Bowers, Kristen Condurelis, Kimberly Daniel, Carol Demumbrum, Dale Finley, Michael Griffin, Megan Lightell, Brian Proud, Jessica Lewis, Renée Rosati, Seth Tummins and Dawn Whitelaw.

Drawing on the reopening of Cheekwood's 55 acres following the pandemic closure, this exhibition of work made outdoors across the estate explores the variety of ways in which enraptured artists record their moments in nature.

Painting *en plein air*, meaning "in the open air", was a core practice for artists in Europe in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century. In America, beginning with the Hudson River School, to the American impressionists, painting in the outdoors became an integral part of art education. Intrepid painters—developing the ability to quickly capture effects of light—made sometimes arduous journeys to study landscapes at magnificent sites.

*En Plein Air* is organized by Campbell Mobley, Curator of Paintings and Works on Paper at Cheekwood. *En Plein Air* is juried by Mobley, James W. Tottis, VP of Museum Affairs, and Katelyn Bennett, Curator of Furniture, Decorative Arts and Architecture.

The exhibition will be on view at Cheekwood's Botanic Hall from July 18 – September 6, 2020.

All visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings when entering buildings. Cloth face coverings are required in outdoor areas except when maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet from other visitors. Parents are asked to follow CDC guidelines regarding the use of masks for children. For Cheekwood's full visitor guidelines, and more information on tickets visit [cheekwood.org](http://cheekwood.org).

### **About Cheekwood**

Cheekwood is a 55-acre American Country Place Era estate in Nashville, Tennessee. Built in 1929 by the Cheek family who amassed their fortune in part through the Maxwell House Coffee business, the estate was gifted and opened as a public institution in 1960. Today, it features 12 distinct gardens, a woodland sculpture trail, a 7,000-piece permanent art collection, and Georgian-style Mansion with historically furnished rooms and galleries.

Over 225,000 visitors come to Cheekwood annually for year-round seasonal festivals, world-class art exhibitions, breathtaking gardens, and educational and public programs for all ages. A member of the American Public Gardens Association, Cheekwood is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its mission is to preserve Cheekwood as an historical landmark where beauty and excellence in art and horticulture stimulate the mind and nurture the spirit.

For more information about Cheekwood, visit [www.cheekwood.org](http://www.cheekwood.org).

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