

Park Avenue

51st Annual Winter Park
Sidewalk Arts Festival

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> In its 51st year, Winter Park's oldest and most exalted arts festival took place on March 19, 20 and 21. As a juried fine arts and fine crafts show, The Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival combines the unique atmosphere of Park Avenue and Central Park in Winter Park, Florida, with a knowledgeable, art-buying public. There is a wide variety of outstanding artwork. Categories include Clay, Digital Art, Drawing and Graphics, Fiber, Glass, Jewelry, Leather, Metal, Mixed Media, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Watercolor and Wood and many more.

The Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival was started by a handful of enthusiasts as a community project to benefit local artists and art lovers. The first festival was held on Park Avenue in March 1960. The festival featured original works of art and, after being advertised for just three weeks before the opening, drew 90 exhibiting artists. Over the next decade, the festival grew to over 600 artists and was spread out over Park Avenue from Fairbanks Avenue to Canton Avenue including all cross streets. For the past 30 years or so, the festival has been contained solely in the park area and currently features 225 artists and 3 emerging artists. A loving art community has created and nurtured a suc-

cessful festival that looks forward to another 50 years in Central Park.

More recently, attendance to the festival usually exceeds 350,000 people for the three-day event.

The artists compete for 62 awards totaling \$67,500. Best of Show is \$10,000. Also, there are 10 Awards of Excellence; each is \$2,000. There are 20 Awards of Distinction; each is \$1,000 and there are 30 Awards of Merit; each is \$500. In addition, a \$2,500 Award for a Distinguished Work of Art is presented through the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art.

This year the festival had the honor of presenting talented musicians, such as Jazz artist, Peter White, Jazz Flutist, Althea Rene, and Jazz Guitarist, Tim Bowman, to perform throughout the weekend. The Winter Park Sidewalk Arts Festival will continue its annual event of promoting emerging artists, while the nation and Winter Park alike will take on the tradition of representing the culture of diverse art.<

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