



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts | 110 W. Finney Ave | Suffolk, VA 23434

Plein Air Event and Exhibit

The Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts is holding its first Plein Air painting event on Saturday, May 5 beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Artists Sandy Waters and Barbara Harris are coordinating the event working in tandem with Suffolk Center Gallery Coordinators Sandy Hart and Pat Eelman.

“Plein air painting is leaving the studio and painting and drawing in the outdoors,” explained Sandy Waters. The practice dates back centuries and was made into an art form by the French impressionists. Their desire to paint light and its changing qualities, along with the introduction of paint tubes and portable easels, allowed the artists to paint “en plein air”, or “in the open air”.

An informational meeting will be held at the Suffolk Center on Saturday, April 28 at 11:00 a.m. to explain the details of the plein air event. There will be a “Y’Art” sale on the 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at which artists can purchase gently used art equipment and supplies.

Registration fee for the May 5 event is \$25 and lunch options will be offered. Registration is available online at [suffolkcenter.org/performances-events](http://suffolkcenter.org/performances-events) or by calling 923-0003.

The event is open to all artists; participants will bring their own paints, easel, and canvases. Artists will gather at the Suffolk Center from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. for coffee and sign in after which they will disperse to begin painting within a 5 mile radius of the Center.

They will reconvene at the Suffolk Center at 4:30 p.m. for a critique and Wet Paint Sale and announcement of the “People’s Choice Award”. Works from the event will be chosen for “In Plein Site” an exhibit at the Suffolk Center on view from May 17 through May 29. The opening reception will be Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sandy Hart or Pat Eelman at 923-0003.