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NEWS RELEASE

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INAUGURAL 'CARMEL ON CANVAS' TO BE HELD AT CARMEL ARTS & DESIGN DISTRICT THIS WEEKEND

CARMEL, IN - Watch art created before your very eyes this weekend at the inaugural Carmel on Canvas Paint Out - an open-air painting exhibition and competition on the sidewalks throughout the Carmel Arts & Design District, one of only five Indiana Cultural Districts<<http://www.in.gov/arts/2654.htm>>. The event, free to spectators, runs Friday-to-Sunday, Sept. 19 through Sunday, Sept. 21. A paint out is an opportunity for artists to capture scenes of the outdoors in a timed competition. Plein air painting is done on site in the "open air."

"Paint Outs have become very popular in recent years and Carmel looks forward to hosting the first time event," said Nancy Heck, Director of Community Relations and Economic Development for the City of Carmel. "Art appreciation is a passion for many in Carmel and this event will hopefully inspire many budding artists, especially our youth, to pick up their own brushes to create their own expressions of the beautiful architecture and streetscapes in our City. We also hope this event will serve as a welcoming encouragement to visiting artists to become more engaged in the Arts & Design District."

The event begins Friday, September 19, with artists registering at Eye On Art Gallery. The public is invited to come to the district and watch the painters set up their easels and paint their chosen subjects. Many professional artists will paint several works during the day, completing their work in 2-3 hours.

"Paint outs are challenging and enjoyable events for the artist as they try to capture the moment in time for their painting," said Jerry Points, chairman of the event and owner of Eye On Art Gallery. "The difficulty is dealing with light change and sometimes weather conditions that are not ideal, but many of our Indiana plein air painters paint year around and actually look forward to the first snow every year."

Visitors and observers enjoy seeing a painting develop and most artists are very open to talk about their paintings. Artists will convene again Saturday to paint and will have works available for sale. Their best work is usually saved, framed and entered for judging where prizes are awarded in professional, amateur and children's categories.

Prizes totaling \$4,000 will be awarded to the painters during the artist's reception at the Indiana Design Center on Saturday at 6 p.m. Nancie King Mertz, a

Chicago artist, will judge the competition. The public is welcome to attend this reception and art works will be on display and available for purchase. On Sunday, September 21, the artists will gather at the Monon Trail and Main Street and participate in a Quick Paint. At Noon the horn will sound and each artist will have 90 minutes to complete their work. A juring will be held again and \$1,000 in awards given for those that choose to enter their paintings. Carmel on Canvas is sponsored the City of Carmel, District, Indiana Design Center, Wine & Canvas, Carmel Arts Council, PNC, Kempler & Associates ReMax, Peace Water Winery and Mudbugs Cajun Café.

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The Carmel Arts & Design District is the Midwest's premier arts and design destination. Home to more than 100 businesses, including art galleries, restaurants, antique dealers, design showrooms, boutiques, and creative service providers, the Carmel Arts & Design District promises to stimulate the senses. The Indiana Design Center is housed in the Carmel Arts & Design District. In addition, hundreds have taken advantage of the wide variety of housing opportunities and call the Carmel Arts & Design District home.