



**Brush Art Gallery and Lowell National Historical Park  
Seek entries for Centennial Art Exhibition,  
*Telling America's Stories: Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service***

**PROSPECTUS**

The National Park Service turns 100 years old on August 25, 2016! In celebration of the centennial, Brush Art Gallery and Studios in partnership with Lowell National Historical Park is seeking entries of contemporary art for a juried exhibit, to be held at the Brush Art Gallery in Lowell, Massachusetts from May 7 - June 10, 2016. Help us commemorate the visionaries who came before us, their groundbreaking ideas, the amazing places the National Park Service manages, and the powerful and significant stories they collectively tell.

Storytelling has been a part of our shared cultural heritage for generations. It brings people together, imprints pictures on their minds, and fosters meaningful connections with history, culture, and the natural world around us. The unique treasures that make up our beloved National Park Service are as diverse as we are; from historic homes, trails, battlefields, and cemeteries to bustling urban centers, canal ways, recreation areas, and seashores. This rich variety has created a portfolio of over 400 parks. In response to the NPS Centennial "Find Your Park" campaign, we are seeking artworks that illustrate these unique stories, whether they are specifically about place, the people and events they commemorate, or your personal connection and experience in any one of them. The national parks offer the ultimate stimulus for creative expression... so show us what "Telling American Stories: Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service" means to you!

**ELIGIBILITY**

This is a national call for artists, open to all U.S. Citizens or U.S. Nationals, at any stage in their professional careers. Artists may submit up to 3 images for consideration.

**ENTRY FEE**

Non-refundable entry fee of \$25 for up to 3 works, paid online to the Brush Art Gallery. Follow this link for payment information: [www.thebrush.org/entryfee.htm](http://www.thebrush.org/entryfee.htm). To make a payment by check or money order, please mail directly to:

The Brush Art Gallery and Studios  
256 Market Street  
Lowell, MA 01852

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Works in the following categories will be accepted for review – painting, sculpture, mixed-media, works on paper, textiles, and photography. Works must not exceed 36" in any direction or 30 pounds in weight.

All work selected for this show, intended to be hung on the walls, must be framed (if applicable), professionally presented, and securely wired. Artists are responsible for providing adequate instructions for handling of fragile work and/or unconventional installations of artwork, within reason.

Please keep in mind, Brush Art Gallery and Studios is open to the public. All submissions should be suitable for both children and adults. Submissions will be reviewed for exhibit suitability and response to show theme.

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Entries must be submitted online and received no later than 11:59pm on Friday, April 1, 2016. The required entry fee must also be received by this time. Incomplete submissions will be disqualified. No late entries will be accepted.

### **ENTRY PROCEDURE**

All entries must be submitted online in jpeg format (300 dpi, no more than 6 inches in either direction). Please provide files of the highest available resolution and quality. Follow this link for entry form: <http://www.lowellartshows.com/NPS>.

### **PANEL OF JURORS**

- Laurel A. Racine, Senior Curator for Research and Planning, National Park Service's Northeast Museum Services Center (NMSC), Charlestown, MA.
- Ahmad Ward, Vice President of Education and Exhibitions, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI), Birmingham, AL.
- Gwen Strahle, Artist, Professor, and Senior Critic at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Providence, RI.

### **IMPORTANT PROJECT DATES**

February 10 – April 1, 2016	Open period for artist submissions
Friday, April 1, 2016	Deadline for submission of application materials
Week of April 17, 2016	Artists notified of selected works for exhibit
Sunday, May 1, 2016, 12-4 p.m.	Hand delivery of selected works to Brush Gallery
Monday, May 2, 2016 12-4 p.m.	Hand delivery of selected works to Brush Gallery
On or before May 1, 2016	Shipping of work from out of state
	<b>*Please note:</b> Gallery cannot receive work prior to April 25
Saturday, May 7, 2016	Show opens/First day of exhibit
Sunday, June 5, 2016	Public reception for artists
Friday, June 10, 2016	Show closes/Last day of exhibit
Sunday, June 12, 2016, 12-4 p.m.	Pick up of work at Brush Gallery
Monday, June 13, 2016, 12-4 p.m.	Pick up of work at Brush Gallery
Week of June 13, 2016	Work shipped back to out-of-state artists

## **LENDER INFORMATION**

Please see loan agreement for detailed information regarding shipping, photo reproduction, insurance, sales, and commission.

## **ABOUT THE JURORS**

**Laurel A. Racine** is the Senior Curator for Research and Planning at the National Park Service's Northeast Museum Services Center (NMSC) in Charlestown, MA, which serves eighty NPS sites from Maine to Virginia. She oversees research, writing, and exhibit-related projects with a specialization in American material culture and historic house museums. For the NPS Centennial, she is working with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and its partners on the exhibit *Bierstadt: Nature and Identity* to be held at the New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks! (June 3-September 18, 2016). Racine has worked as a museum educator and/or curator since 1989 at institutions including the UMass Dartmouth Art Gallery, Fuller Museum of Art, Heritage Plantation of Sandwich, Pilgrim Hall, Plimoth Plantation, and the Winterthur Museum. She holds a BA in art history from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, a certificate in Museum Studies from Tufts University, and an MA in Early American Culture from the Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware.

**Ahmad Ty-Ke Ward** began his tenure with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) in Birmingham, Alabama in June of 1999 as an Education Assistant. He currently serves as the Vice President of Education where his responsibilities include public programming, exhibitions, teacher workshops and training sessions, as well as the general workings of the Education Department. Ward is a member of the Smithsonian Affiliates Advisory Board and the Jekyll Island Management Institute Selection Board Committee. He is also active at Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion church in the children's education department, male chorus and Sons of Varick. Earlier in his career, he served as an intern with the National Park Service at Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown, VA. He received a BA in Art from Elizabeth City State University and a MA in Museum Studies from Hampton University.

**Gwen Strahle** has been teaching drawing at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) since 1984 and is a past recipient of the John R. Frazier Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is represented by Lenore Gray Gallery in Providence, RI and has exhibited her paintings with Zeuxis, an association of still-life painters, in numerous galleries, museums, and college exhibition spaces. Strahle has also served as a visiting artist and guest lecturer at art and academic institutions across the country including Brandeis University, Boston University, Massachusetts College of Art, Montserrat College, University of Rochester, University of Oregon, Rhode Island College, and The Drawing Center in New York City. She is the recipient of awards from the Connecticut Artist Fellowship, the Guggenheim Fellowship, the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Ingram Merrill Foundation. She holds a BA from Rhode Island College and an MFA from Yale School of Art.

## **ABOUT BRUSH ART GALLERIES AND STUDIOS**

The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is located in the Lowell National Historical Park across the courtyard from the Visitor Center. This dynamic and captivating place was originally founded by

the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Department of the Interior in 1982. The Brush presents museum quality exhibitions, educational programs, and has collaborated with many other nonprofit groups. Artists occupy studio spaces to interact with and educate the public on a weekly basis. Currently, fourteen studio artists produce paintings, illustration, photography, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, quilts, and handwoven items. Associate artists display work in the common area. The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. The Brush is supported by Lowell National Historical Park and Eastern National. For more information, please visit: <http://thebrush.org>.

### **ABOUT LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

Lowell National Historical Park is a unique urban national park, founded in 1978, dedicated to preserving and exploring Lowell's continuing history as the nation's first large-scale manufacturing city. The park works in partnership with community organizations, local residents, and visitors to tell stories of technology, labor, immigration, women's rights, and the industrial economy in Lowell and beyond. Over 500,000 visitors annually to Lowell National Historical Park visit museum sites, participate in interactive canal and trolley tours, view operating textile machinery, participate in hands-on family programs, attend special events, and more. For more information, please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/lowe>.

### **QUESTIONS**

For more information or inquiries, please contact Jim Dymant, Executive Director, Brush Art Galleries and Studios, at (978) 459-7819 or via email at [brushdirector@gmail.com](mailto:brushdirector@gmail.com).