



CALL FOR ARTISTS

130 East Jackson Street
Thomasville, GA 31792
<https://www.wiregrassartcoop.org/>

The Wiregrass Art Gallery in Thomasville, Georgia is accepting applications for membership.

If you are an artist seeking a high-traffic venue to exhibit your work, Wiregrass offers you an opportunity to become part of a community of artists.

This packet provides information on the application process and requirements for joining the Gallery.

For more information, please contact: Fran Buie

Email: franbuie@yahoo.com

Thank you for your interest in joining Wiregrass Art Gallery!

The Wiregrass Art Gallery is an artist cooperative (co-op) located in the vibrant downtown area of Thomasville, Georgia. The mission of the co-op is to provide artists with a high-profile exhibitions space, and actively promote artist's work. The Gallery accomplishes this by assembling a core network of artists who share the expenses, responsibilities and benefits of running a gallery. The Gallery features fine art and fine craft and is a dynamic organization that actively participates in a variety of Thomasville events such as the Thomasville Rose Festival, Victorian Christmas, along with First Friday Sip and Shop and the downtown sidewalk sales.

The Co-Op is an artist run gallery. Artists staff the gallery and operate all aspects of the business. Our yearly sales are approximately \$60,000. With approximately 10,000 visitors per year. All sales in the gallery are made on behalf of fellow members.

Our Gallery membership consists of approximately 35 members, and has over 1,900 square feet of exhibition space. Member artists are from Thomasville, Tallahassee, Valdosta, Monticello and other surrounding communities. We keep a balance of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artists who work in a variety of mediums. Most are seasoned artists with impressive resumes; some are instructors and teach workshops and classes, while some are new talents.

Each member has the opportunity to share a special month-long display of their work in one of our front windows, in addition to the continuous display of their work with the other gallery members. Members may also take part in special events in our "Rose Room" and give demonstrations of their work during the year.

Our membership year begins on January 1st of each year. New members are selected by our Membership Committee throughout the year. After an application review, applicants are notified in writing of their status. It is the policy of the Gallery to refrain from explanations as to its decision concerning the non-acceptance of applicants. Members are chosen not only on the strength of their work but also on the vacancies that are available at the gallery at the time of application. Please keep in mind, if you are not accepted, we may have simply had "too many painters" or "too many jewelers".

Members pay annual dues of \$125.00 in January; which is pro-rated based on when a member joins during the year. The annual dues are non-refundable. Members also pay a monthly rent based on their space within the gallery, with a minimum monthly cost of \$25.00. Members also pay a commission on their gallery sales. The commission paid by the member, is based upon the number of hours per month that the artist staffs the gallery. The commission ranges from 20 to 40 percent of the artists sales for that month.

Gallery members are required to work a minimum of six hours per month to staff the gallery. This is the equivalent of one business day. We expect our members to be polite professional and courteous while working. Staffing is managed by the Staffing Manager and members can choose which day they work from the monthly operating hours.

We request that members also serve on at least one committee during their tenure. The committees include: Promotions and Events, Finance, and Gallery Management among others. Upon acceptance, new members are expected to have a body of work ready for exhibition in the gallery. In addition, members are expected to refresh their exhibit on a regular basis.

All members should plan to attend the annual Membership meeting. This meeting is usually held during the month of June or July.

What the Gallery does for you:

- Provides exhibition space to display your work in a high-profile location in downtown Thomasville
- Staffs the gallery by member artists to promote artwork to gallery visitors
- Displays work in the gallery window as featured artist of the month
- Exhibits a sample of your work and a bio on the gallery website providing additional visibility to patrons of the arts
- Provides an opportunity for you to be a Spotlight Artist of the Month on the gallery website
- Participates in local events and sponsors activities to promote the gallery and its members
- Offers a designated room for members to conduct workshops and classes

What you do for the Gallery:

- Set up your initial display with the assistance of Gallery Manager
- Refresh your display at least every 4 months with new work
- Participate in a Gallery committee
- Help staff the Gallery a minimum of 6 hours per month
- Agree to not have your work in any other gallery or retail establishment in Thomasville, GA, with the exception of temporary shows or exhibits.

Work of artists applying to join the gallery is juried by a committee. Work is judged based on originality, quality of work, and appropriateness for the Thomasville community.

Included in this packet is information for application. You will find an artist information and Artist Responsibilities Acknowledgement forms. Please complete these forms and submit them along with 5-6 photos of your work. To help promote your work, please include and a "head shot" and a photo of you creating your artwork.

The application may be submitted via email at franbuie@yahoo.com or mailed to the gallery at:

Wiregrassartcoop.org

130 East Jackson Street, Thomasville, GA 31792

ATTN: Membership Chair.

Artists accepted into the Gallery will be notified by the Membership Committee Chair and then contacted by the Gallery Manager and Finance Officer to set up a mutually agreed upon time to receive preliminary orientation, and set up your initial display. Detailed orientation and training with an experienced member on gallery opening, working the front desk, and closing will also be scheduled.

NARRATIVE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE RELATED TO YOUR ARTWORK:

A large empty rectangular box for writing a narrative of experience related to artwork.

AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, EXHIBITS:

A large empty rectangular box for listing awards, publications, and exhibits.

The information above will be used to promote your work. SEND THE ARTIST INFORMATION ALONG WITH SIGNED COPIES OF THE ARTIST ACKNOWLEDGMENT PAGE, FULL RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT AND 5-6 IMAGES OF YOUR ARTWORK TO THE GALLERY OR EMAIL TO: franbuie@yahoo.com

Artist Responsibilities - Acknowledgement

I, _____ (print artist name), understand that as a cooperative business member of the Wiregrass Artists Cooperative, I acknowledge the following responsibilities and agree to comply with the gallery's expectations:

- Work a minimum of 6 hours per month at the gallery. This can be 2 half days or one full day. Hours can also be accrued staffing the Sip and Shop held in Thomasville, the sidewalk sales, Victorian Christmas, and other special events held in Thomasville where the gallery is opened additional hours, as well as serving on the co-op Board.
- Set up art display and refresh display at least every 4 months.
- Ensure that membership fees and space rental are paid on a timely basis
- Participate in a gallery committee: Gallery Management, Finance, Membership, Events and Promotions, and Website/Social Media
- I understand that my work in Thomasville, Ga and a thirty-five mile radius will be exclusive to the Wiregrass Art Gallery and that I will not have work in any other gallery or retail establishment except for temporary shows such as weekend shows, temporary exhibits, or temporary one person exhibits.

Printed Name

Signature of Artist

Date

Digital Signature of Artist (if available)

FULL RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, _____ (print artist name), understand that as a member of the Wiregrass Artists Cooperative, I am fully responsible for carrying property insurance for all personal property, including artwork, belonging to me, that has been left in, on, or about the Wiregrass Gallery premises.

Further, I shall hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Wiregrass Artists Cooperative, its officers, and members, from any claims, costs or actions of any kind arising out of any property damage, theft or loss of any artwork displayed or any personal property of any kind left in, on or about the Wiregrass Gallery premises.

Further, I understand that this agreement extends to any prior approved loan of my work by the Wiregrass Artists Cooperative for display in the Thomasville community.

Printed Name

Signature of Artist

Date

Digital Signature of Artist (if available)