



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Contact: Rod Seel,
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Agnew, Hunter Paintings Win Paint the Parks Top100 National Competition

PaintAmerica, a national, non-profit organization to support artists and promote the visual arts, has announced that John Agnew's "Looking for the Shore" is the Grand Prize Winner of the 2007 Paint the Parks Top100 Artists' Competition. Agnew's work, a 16" x 20" acrylic painting, depicts a green frog on glacial cobblestones in the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Agnew is a Cincinnati, Ohio resident with an international reputation for his natural history subjects. Agnew also had a second painting accepted into the Top100. As Grand Prize Winner, Agnew is the recipient of Paint the Park's \$10,000 Grand Prize Purchase Award. "To be named the winner of this competition is indeed an honor," Agnew said. "There were many great American artists and I'm humbled to be a part of it."

Ray Hunter's watercolor painting, "Lesson on the Yellowstone" was chosen as the MiniTop50 Grand Prize Purchase Award Winner. Hunter, of Santa Barbara, California, painted a 10" x 14" watercolor fly-fishing scene on the Yellowstone River to capture the \$5,000 Purchase Award. "I was completely amazed and honored to receive this prestigious award, said Hunter. "It is an honor to participate in such esteemed company with other artists. There is no more exciting subject for me to paint than our national parks."

Agnew's and Hunter's paintings were chosen from hundreds of entries submitted nationwide, by a jury panel of three nationally recognized artists and art professionals. Paint the Parks is the nation's leading art competition and exhibition in cash prizes, purchase awards and exhibit viewings. PaintAmerica was established to support and promote the arts, with a goal of providing scholarship opportunities for young artists, as well as providing a premiere, national venue for established and emerging artists to showcase their talent. "When the Arts for the Parks program was discontinued, we were deluged with letters, emails and phone calls from artists asking PaintAmerica to continue that tradition, stated Rod Seel, Executive Director of PaintAmerica. It wasn't easy, but we managed to develop the Paint the Parks Competition quickly, to continue this great format for showcasing the beauty and qualities of our National Parks as seen through the eyes of the country's best artists."

Regional Cash Award winners were: Neil Adamson, for his painting, "Early Morning Fisherman"; Ruo Li, for his seascape, "Power"; and Warren W. Adams, for his painting, "Togwatee Pass." The Lili Francuz Juror's Choice Cash Award went to Shane Dimmick for "Yellowstone Still." Juror W. Scott Jennings chose the Bill James painting, "The Reenactment" for his Juror's Choice Award. The Ann Trusty Juror's Choice Cash Award Winner was Arline Tinus for her painting "Morning on the Colorado River". In the Mini-Top50, Juror's Choice Awards went to Steve Lesnick for "Reflections"; Beth Norwood for "Morning Haze in the Gros Ventre"; and Deb Schroer for her oil painting "A Humble Start."

The Grand Canyon Association Purchase Award was awarded to Marion W. Hylton for her pastel painting "Sunset on the South Rim". The selected work will join the permanent art collection on display at Grand Canyon National Park. Robert L. Hunt was selected as the recipient of The Johnstown Flood National Memorial Purchase Award for his painting titled "Calm Before the Storm." Hunt's painting will be display

The unique format of the Paint the Parks100 competition asks artists to create works that depict a particular National Park of their choosing. The artist enters their paintings and the Top100 winners are chosen by a nationally recognized juror panel to become part of the nationally touring Paint the Parks Top100. The winning paintings from the competition are available for purchase, and can be viewed and purchased at www.PaintAmerica.org Future competition information and other programs of PaintAmerica are also available at this site.