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TRAVEL GUIDE: THINGS TO DO THIS YEAR AT ONE OF THE TOP ART FESTIVALS IN THE SOUTHEAST
5th Annual Atlanta Arts Festival Paints the City with Color Saturday, September 17 & Sunday, September 18


ATLANTA – What city in the United States did you really want to visit this summer but didn't have the chance? This September travelers can find treasures from states across the country all in one place as 200 nationally-renowned artists from across the nation bring their pieces of work to Atlanta for the 5th Annual Atlanta Arts Festival. An event for both the high-end art collector along with those newer to the art scene, people can expect to find that perfect piece of artwork to complete their home décor, discover one-of-a-kind jewelry to accentuate their individual style, or attendees can simply fill their weekend with enriching entertainment during a weekend in one of Atlanta's most historic locations, Piedmont Park.


 **Participating Artists** – The festival includes 200 artists from across the country, here are how the numbers break down; 32 states are represented, with **71% of the artists from out-of-state**. 58 artists are from Georgia, while **79% of the artists are from around the Southeast**. For a complete list of artists check our press kit pages 4-6.

 **Festival Music Stage** – This year entertainment has been amped up to include a larger Festival Music Stage! Festival-goers can enjoy live music while they wander around the artist market or simply relax with a glass of Barefoot Wine & Bubbly or a SweetWater brew in the park while they take in the sounds of the Southeast's best talent. Some performers include **Sam Thacker, The Whiskey Gentry, Zydeco T** and Jimmy Buffett cover band, **A1A**.

 **Canvas by U!** – Canvas by U! is an adult art class. Festival attendees can create their own masterpiece as professional instructors teach guests how to paint beautiful works of art with step-by-step instructions that are easy to follow at any level. Classes cost \$20/person, and that includes supplies. To register visit: <https://www.canvasbyu.com/aaf.aspx>.

 **Lil' Artist Alley** – Lil' Artist Alley is an area for the kids to enjoy special activities and performances! The Children's Museum will bring an "imaginators" and the Cobb Children's Theatre will have some "princesses" on-site, and that's just a sample of all the kid friendly activities going on during the festival!

 **Creation Station** – Fun for the whole family, the Creation Station features fun, inspiring artist demonstrations, hands on and collaborative activities and informative educational sessions by professional artists, including an interactive collage demonstration by Vickie Martin. The first 40 people who stop by Vickie's tent will be able to create a collaborative collage they can take home. A variety of materials will be used, including found papers such as music, dress patterns, books, rice paper, old drawings, greeting cards, magazines, newspapers and thread, to name a few!

 **Art of Cooking Stage** – Art for the taste buds, learn how top chefs create their specialties! Chefs will be representing Barefoot Wine, BJ's Wholesale Club, Chattanooga Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Atlanta Botanical Garden's Edible Garden.

Named a top 10 art destination among big cities in the country by American Style Magazine, Atlanta is the perfect destination for travelers who want to get away for the weekend and enjoy the rich cultural scene that the 5th Annual Atlanta Arts Festival has to offer.

The official hotel partner of the 5th Annual Atlanta Arts Festival, Hotel Midtown is offering a special rate to festival patrons. To make reservations visit www.hotelmidtownatlanta.com or call 404-873-4800 (toll free 877-873-7829) and ask for the Atlanta Arts Festival rate.

For a schedule of events, visit www.AtlantaArtsFestival.com. For the latest details "fan" the Atlanta Arts Festival on Facebook www.Facebook.com/AtlantaArtsFestival and follow them on Twitter @AtlantaArtsFest - don't forget to use the event hashtag #aaf!

ABOUT ATLANTA ARTS FESTIVAL

Atlanta Arts Festival is a professionally-juried fine arts event that will fill Piedmont Park in Atlanta GA with color and life, September 17-18, 2011. Ranked among the top 200 art festivals in the country in sales for both fine art and fine craft by the *Art Fair Sourcebook* in 2009, Atlanta Arts Festival brings to the drawing board 200 local and nationally recognized artists from an eclectic mix of 12 mediums, including jewelry, painting, photography, ceramics and sculpture, leather and metal, glassblowing and more – all in one weekend! For more information visit www.AtlantaArtsFestival.com, call 770-941-9660.

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