



6th International Festival of Painting *en plein air*

15th to 19th June 2022
at Château d'Ainay-Le-Vieil

Press kit

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Facebook : Search "In the cradle of Impressionism"
Instagram : @the_cradle_of_impressionism

Equally, more information about the festival and the Association is available at the following sites:
www.festival-cultures-croisees.eu
www.frenchpleinairpainters.com

In association with :



14 - 19
JUIN 2022

6^{ème} festival
international
de peinture
en plein air*

Venez admirer les artistes en résidence

* Séances de peinture, master-classes, démonstrations, expositions



Ainay
le Vieil
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www.chateau-ainaylevieil.fr

What is the International Festival of Painting *en plein air*?

The International Festival of Painting *en plein air* is organised every year by the *Association Festival Cultures Croisées*, a non-for profit organisation that seeks to encourage interaction and cultural exchange within the international art community.

The “*plein air*” element of the festival stipulates that the artists who participate in this event create their works outside, *in situ* within the landscape that represents their subject. This method of painting takes its inspiration from impressionists such as Monet, Gauguin and Pissarro, all painters renowned for their ability to capture natural light and colour.

A unique concept

The festival offers a unique opportunity for exchange between artists from different countries and cultures, between professionals and amateurs and between these artists and the public. For a reasonable enrolment fee, artists of all backgrounds are invited to participate in the festival. For five days, artists will be able to set up in the park or gardens and paint their surroundings in the tradition of *plein air* painting. Nominated artists will create paintings in the formats 80x80cm, 60x80cm and 40x80cm. During the creation of these works, artists are interviewed, and commit to communicating and presenting their process to the public, who are welcome to observe this process in the grounds of the chateau. Master classes, portraits of the public, demonstrations, exchanges and other activities will punctuate the week. The culmination of this artistic production is the exhibition of the the works created onsite in the Museum of Popular Art and Traditions. Masterclasses and workshops with professional artists, free demonstration sessions, exchanges and other activities will punctuate this festival.

The key characteristics of the festival are as follows :

- A unique event of recognised artistic value
- An organisation supported by a team of recognised professionals
- An event characterised by the transmission of communal and cooperative values
- An emphasis on the international aspect of the festival, recognised by UNESCO and associated with several prestigious impressionist organisations
- An event that benefits from committed and recurrent support from our historical partners, public and private

When and where does the festival take place?

The festival is nomadic in nature, taking place at a different location every year over 3 to 5 consecutive days (from the arrival of the artists on Tuesday or Wednesday to the closure of the festival on Sunday evening). Our aim is to reach a large portion of the public and to allow the artists to enjoy the numerous visits and meetings proposed over the course of their stay. The date and place of the festival are released in the autumn, the year before each edition takes place.

The festival has gone from strength to strength since its first edition in 2017, and we are happy to present to you the 6th edition of our festival which will take place from the 14th to the 19th June 2022. The Festival has traditionally taken place in Normandy, taking its inspiration from the Impressionists who originally fell in love with this inexhaustible source of inspiration, its natural setting and the beauty of its landscapes and sky. However, the landscape of France offers many rich and diverse possibilities for *plein air* painting, and for this reason, we have chosen the Loire Valley as the location for the 6th edition of our festival.

The 2022 edition

The 6th edition of the Festival will take place in the Loire Valley, more specifically in the exceptional surroundings of the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil, a 13th century fortified castle with towers, a moat, guardrooms, and covered walkway. The castle has passed between the generations, remaining in the same family since its purchase in 1467 by the ancestors of the current owners. The Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil seeks to be to be a place of exchange and learning which encourages the promotion of heritage and culture. We are delighted to be able to hold our festival in a location that shares these important values.



**Current owners of the Château,
above, Marie-Sol de La Tour
D'Auvergne, and below, Arielle et
Hervé Borne**

In the courtyard there remain two dwellings, one from the 13th century, and another residence dating from the end of the 15th century, which combines flamboyant Gothic and Renaissance styles. The castle is particularly renowned for its Renaissance gardens, which will provide a source of inspiration and reflection for participants and visitors to the festival alike.



In the landscaped park with its century-old trees surrounding the castle, the gardens offer a stunning contrast between the long perspectives on the water of the Renaissance canals and the enclosed gardens (Hortus conclusus) of the Carthusian monasteries. They also offer an insight into the art of gardening. The rose garden boasts two Renaissance pavilions, while the Carré en l'Île is decorated with palisaded hornbeams and five chartreuses (open air rooms overlooking the canals and united by a series of canals), each with its own themed garden.

One of the other unique characteristics of the Chateau is the omnipresence of water throughout the grounds. Its practical and defensive purposes are reflected by the castle's moat, in the mill and in the wash house, where a system of weirs ensure its continued utility. These more utilitarian uses are tempered by the decorative beauty of this same water as it flows through the gardens thanks to a judicious network of canals.



The magic of these surroundings offers contemporary artists the same interaction between painter and landscape sought by the masters of impressionist painting. The International Festival of Painting *en plein air* seeks to preserve and encourage this spirit each summer, and we are delighted to do so this year at the Château d'Ainay-le-Vieil.

For more information about the château, visit : <https://chateau-ainaylevieil.fr>

Artist focus : Guest of honour 2022

At each edition of the festival we invite a guest of honour, and this year is no exception. It is with great delight that we announce this year's guest of honour, Ukrainian artist Andrii Kovalyk.

Andrii dedicated his time to making replicas of ancient images and icons, before deciding to follow his lifelong dream of combining travel and painting. He began to practise watercolours and the *plein air* method, a pursuit that has led him to travel through various countries such as India, Italy, Georgia, Turkey and Greece. Andrii usually travels by bike which allows him the opportunity to explore these countries independently, but is now looking to focus on larger formats, which has prompted him to undertake the project of creating his own portable studio. He says



“I want to paint on bigger canvases and travel to further places. I want to see and paint the most picturesque places, landscapes and cities on our beautiful and inspiring planet.”

A member of the Bukovinian Watercolour Association since 2020, Andrii has participated in numerous group exhibitions in many countries, winning several awards at watercolour exhibitions and festivals. Andrii will be giving demonstrations and talks throughout the festival. This a fantastic opportunity for artists and visitors alike to learn from his experiences of plein air painting, and we are very excited to welcome him to the 6th edition this year!



The Festival programme

Tuesday 14th June : 2pm onwards - arrival of residential artists and their companions

Wednesday 15th June : Guided visit for resident artists, Welcome Party given by the owners of the Château

Thursday 16th June : 10am onwards - arrival of all participating artists (including non-residents), badges, welcome gifts and canvases adhering to the prescribed formats will be given to nominees

Friday 17th June : Painting in the gardens, exhibition at the Museum of Arts and Popular Traditions

Saturday 18th June : Painting in the gardens, exhibition at the Museum of Arts and Popular Traditions, Gala dinner at 8pm

Sunday 19th June : All day - portraits of the public created on demand by the artists on-site, 2pm - demonstration by guest of honour Andrii Kovalyk, exhibition at the Museum of Arts and Popular Traditions

The welcome and information point will be open every day from 10am to 6pm. New participants are invited to register online or on-site each day.

Participants will receive welcome gifts and materials from our valued partners :

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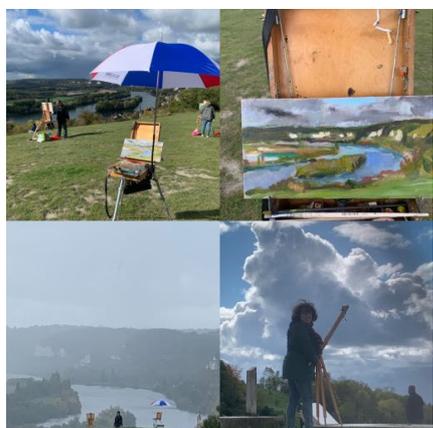
Gallery



Organisation of the final exhibition from the 2017 edition



Artists will be provided with material from our partners to assist them in their *plein air* creations



The Association Festival Cultures Croisées organises events throughout the year to valorise the art of plein air painting



Images from the first edition of the festival

About the Association “Festival Cultures Croisées”

The Association “Festival Cultures Croisées” was created in 2000 by Anna Filimonova-Masson, who continues to run the organisation today. The International Festival of Painting *en plein air* has known great success these past six years as the result of Ms Filimonova-Masson’s organisation, and the support of the association, its volunteers, and the municipalities and regions that have hosted the events.

Anna Filimonova is a world-renowned artist. She is described by the contemporary art magazine “L’Univers des Arts” as “striving to translate not only the place, but also, and perhaps above all, the atmosphere that reigns there and that has seduced her. This is why she feels the imperative need to paint



outdoors, to feel the noises and people passing by, the atmosphere of the street, even if she finishes her paintings in the calm of her studio, inhabited by her memories and visions.”

In addition to its annual festival, the association organised many events, including some in union with UNESCO and for the Japanese Association IMA. The association is well-versed in the international art world, and thanks to the charisma and commitment of Anna Filimonova, has known numerous successes with their events that seek above-all to promote cultural exchange. The organisation prides itself on its resolutely international character, which has ultimately led to the patronage of UNESCO for several of the editions of the festival.

Ms Filimonova is supported at the association by :

Didier Martin, Vice-President : A former student of HEC, he has spent his entire professional life in the banking industry. Passionate about impressionism and Italian Renaissance painting, he also loves theatre, literature, astronomy and music in all its forms (opera, hard rock, Gaelic folklore, sacred music, etc.). He is very actively involved in voluntary work, particularly in the field of financial support and advice / mentoring for young entrepreneurs, as well as in food aid for the most disadvantaged.

Alexandre Jevakhoff, Vice-President : Civil servant (HEC, SCIENCES PO, ENA, Inspecteur Général des Finances) and French historian, author of numerous works on Russian history or on Atatürk, he has also served as President of the Circle of the Russian Imperial Navy, member of the Union of Russian Nobility, and churchwarden of the Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (Paris).

Annick Saimpert, Treasurer : A former student of HEC, she created and managed her own company in the field of organisational consulting, information systems and project management. She speaks Russian and has a long-standing interest in Russia. In addition to her role as treasurer, she participates alongside Anna Filimonova in the development of the Festival's concept and is in charge of relations with institutional and private partners and sponsors.

The association also relies upon a small team of faithful and passionate volunteers who come together for the Festival from several cities in France, including Paris, Nancy, Toulouse, Nice and many more !

