

A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Call to Artists –
Annual Juried Art Exhibition is Accepting Entries for
“The Best of the Best” at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**

Fort Pierce, Florida, August 28, 2018 –

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery’s annual juried art exhibition, “The Best of the Best,” is accepting artist applications during regular Museum hours Fridays – Sundays, beginning on Sunday, September 16 through Saturday, October 6, 2018, until 3:00 pm. The application is open to amateur and professional artists with a \$30 entry fee per work. A full prospectus with guidelines and application is available to download from the Museum’s website at www.BackusMuseum.com or it can be picked up at the Museum located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, Florida.

Artists may enter their work in one of four media categories: oil and acrylic paintings, watercolor and water-based media, varied techniques (which includes mixed media, pastel, pencil, printmaking, graphics, collage and computer generated works) and three-dimensional. A full description of all of the categories along with frequently asked questions is available in the prospectus.

The juried exhibition “The Best of the Best” will be on view October 14 through November 16, 2018, with the opening reception on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Prizes will be awarded by the jury. The exhibition is sponsored by Seacoast Bank.

On view September 14 – 30 during special pre-season hours is the exhibition “First Response: Photographs by Rusty Wiles,” a presentation of fifty images from the local firefighter and Instagram phenomenon. For more information and hours, please visit www.BackusMuseum.com.

About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery

With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery houses the nation’s largest public presentation of artwork by Florida’s preeminent painter, A.E. “Bean” Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state’s only permanent multimedia exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, Backus was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the

businesses and the private collections of many of Florida's most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the Florida Highwaymen. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim. It was voted "Best Museum 2018" in Indian River Magazine's annual "Best of the Treasure Coast," where it was described as "a fabulous place to visit."

Special Pre-Season Hours from September 14 – 30 are Friday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM, Sunday 12 Noon to 4 PM. Beginning Sunday, October 14, the Season begins with Regular Museum hours as Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 PM; closed on Monday and Tuesday. Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18 and active duty military are always free. Beginning November 4 during the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

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