

A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Call to Artists – Enter to see if you will be “The Best of the Best” for 2019!
The Annual Juried Art Exhibition is Accepting Entries beginning September 11
at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**

Fort Pierce, Florida, August 9, 2019 –

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery’s annual juried art exhibition, “The Best of the Best,” is accepting artist applications during regular Museum hours Wednesday–Sundays until 3:00 pm, beginning on Wednesday, September 11 through Saturday, September 28, 2019. 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.org or it can be picked up starting September 11 at the Museum located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, Florida.

New this year, the Museum is holding a free Entry Workshop to give artists guidance on understanding the rules, tips on acceptable framing and presentation, and help to avoid common submission problems. This workshop will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Those who attend the free workshop will receive a “bonus entry” – they will be able to submit their second entry into the competition free.

Artists may enter their work in “The Best of the Best” by submitting into one of four media categories: oil and acrylic paintings, watercolor (including gouache and tempera), varied techniques (which includes mixed media, pastel, pencil, pen & ink, 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 4 through November 15, 2019, with the Season Opening Reception on Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. The Museum will announce accepted works on October 4, the day the exhibition opens. Prizes awarded by the jury will be announced on October 11, 2019, before the opening reception.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: The Museum will be closed from August 12 – September 10 for pre-season maintenance. The Museum will re-open September 11 – 28 with special Pre-Season Hours Wednesday – Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm and 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.

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