



NEWS RELEASE

June 20, 2016

Contact: Valerie Wiseman, DAC Marketing Coordinator

valerie@durangoarts.org

(970) 259 - 2606 ex. 16

Dr. Don Cooke to Jury Plein Air Exhibit, *An Artist's Vision of Reality*, Opening July 1

(Durango, CO) -- The Durango Arts Center (DAC) announces Dr. Don Cooke as the juror for the Plein Air Exhibit, *An Artist's Vision of Reality*, opening July 1 in the Barbara Conrad Gallery at DAC. Cooke is a local physician who has been painting seriously since 1997. He works primarily outside, en plein air, but also continues studio work, particularly in figure painting and portraiture. This competition is open to all plein air painters. Work must have been created within the last two years and not be larger than 3 feet x 3 feet. Work submitted must be for sale. Artwork submissions for the exhibit are due to DAC on June 28 between 10am and 2pm. The Opening Reception will be held from 5 to 7pm on July 1 and the show will be on view until August 6.

Artists interested in submitting artwork should visit durangoarts.org/plein-air for eligibility requirements, full submission guidelines and calendar.

The exhibit is sponsored by Legacy Properties West Sotheby's International Realty and Oxford Asset Management LLC.

Artist Bill Cramer will be instructing a two-day plein air workshop on July 9 and 10 in conjunction with the exhibit. The workshop is full, but there is a wait list. Interested persons may sign up at durangoarts.org/visual-adult.

About Dr. Don Cooke

Don Cooke is a local physician who has been painting seriously since 1997. He began painting in oil and had some early coaching by Durango artist Mike Desatnick. In 1999, he took a workshop with Albert Handell in Taos, and became interested in pastel as a medium. He works primarily outside, en plein air, but also continues studio work, particularly in figure painting and portraiture. Most of his landscape paintings are completed in pastel or oil on site and often the field studies are used for larger studio

paintings. Don has studied at the Scottsdale Artists School with Leslie B DeMille and Matt Smith. He has also attended workshops in portraiture and landscape painting from New York City to California. He has spent many hours painting outdoors with former Durangoans, Connie Morse and Dave Sime.

Don's work has appeared in many juried shows. His work has been juried into the International Association of Pastel Societies show in Santa Fe. He has won both the People's Choice award and Juror's award at the New Mexico Pastel Society. He has exhibited with the Four Corners Plein Air Painters. At the show in Farmington in March of 2005, he won the Juror's award, the Award of Excellence, and People's choice. At the show at Fort Lewis College in November 2005, he won the Best in Show Award. His painting "Evening on the Animas" was selected as the La Plata Open Space Conservatory poster in 2006. His work was also juried into the Scottsdale Artists School Best and Brightest show in 2010. In 2014 he collaborated with Isabelle Roche of Henri Roche pastels in Paris, France, to select a pastel palette for the southwestern landscape.

Don describes himself as a colorist, and advances in pastel manufacture and papers have allowed the intense use of color that turns out to be anything but "pastel" in appearance. With a young daughter at home, pastel allows for quick trips to the studio, but he still enjoys mixing oil paint when time permits.

About DAC

DAC is a multi-faceted hub for community arts that hosts and promotes contemporary visual and performing arts, arts education, dynamics exhibits, an active Docent program and the annual Durango Autumn Arts Festival. Over the years, DAC has built its reputation as a local arts industry leader and has been working diligently to ensure that the arts continue to thrive in the Four Corners region and beyond.

<http://durangoarts.org>.



ANNUAL PLEIN AIR EXHIBIT AT THE DURANGO ARTS CENTER

AN ARTIST'S VISION OF REALITY

JURIED BY DR. DON COOKE
JULY 1 – AUGUST 6
OPENING RECEPTION : JULY 1, 5-7PM

CALL FOR ARTWORK | DROP OFF JUNE 28

VISIT DURANGOARTS.ORG/PLEIN-AIR

**DURANGO
ARTS
CENTER**

Bill Cramer, *Bridge to Forever*, oil, plein air, 15x30, 2014.

