



## **Art of the Plains 2026**

### **American Plains Artists Forty-first Annual Juried Exhibit & Sale**

**Over \$15,000.00 in Awards**

**FORT CONCHO NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

630 S. Oakes Street -- San Angelo, TX 76903

June 20 -- August 2, 2026

**Awards Juror**  
**Phil Bob Borman**



Phil Bob Borman is an accomplished painter and sculptor, who enjoys creating both in the two- and three-dimensional realms. He has been a professional artist since graduating from Sul Ross University in Alpine, TX, class of 1986. As a landscape artist he is at home painting both in the studio and plein air.

Phil Bob states, “Art is a visual language, like storytelling, the content of the story is simply where you start. It is how you tell the story that brings the smile, creates the mood and evokes the emotions. As an artist, using the tools of composition, form, color and light, I abstract them together so as not to render, but to go beyond the subject. As I look at a landscape, however big or small, I want to communicate the spectacular vistas I see. In God’s creation there is nothing mundane. My goal is to tell the story of what He has created through fine art, one piece at a time.”

A native of Texas, Phil Bob was raised in north central Texas. At age seven he collected his first piece of art, of which he still possesses. At 14, he came home from work one night and drew until dawn. “At that moment I knew I was going to be an artist.” Borman began as a sculptor, supporting himself by working as a cowboy on West Texas ranches. In 1993 he was called to the ministry and set art aside. Then one day, Phil Bob muses, “the Lord said, ‘start painting’ and I said, ‘Okay.’”

Phil Bob says of himself, “I am a man who loves the Lord, people and the arts. I’m easy going. I smile more than some folks breathe. I have been in a good mood most of my life. My approach to painting and life in general is ‘the pursuit of excellence’. It is not a destination, but a heart and mindset. In the pursuit, it is realizing that you can always see further than you can throw. I have been painting clouds for the last twenty years, and I haven’t even scratched the surface of all that I want to explore in this genre. Painting clouds is a passion, a passion to illustrate the glory of God’s creation in each and every sky.”

To learn more about Phil Bob Borman and his work please refer to: [www.philbobbormanfineart.com](http://www.philbobbormanfineart.com).

## About APA and the Theme of the Exhibit

The **American Plains Artists** or APA was first organized in 1982 as a small group of artists who banded together to highlight through their art, the variety to be found in the vast region known as the American Plains. Today, the APA has expanded into a nonprofit organization with a membership consisting of both signature and associate members. The goals have remained the same, to educate the public through traditional and representational art works about the American Plains region including the landscape, wildlife, peoples and way of life in historical or modern times. Works submitted for the juried show must reflect this theme. Review the website [www.americanplainsartists.com](http://www.americanplainsartists.com) for more info.

## Awards

**Best of Show** \$2,000.00

**1st Place Award** \$1,000.00 **2nd Place Award** \$750.00 **3rd Place Award** \$500.00

**Clyde Heron Award** (the most accurately rendered artwork of a historical subject) \$250.00

**Plainsman Award** (People's Choice) – \$250.00

**Golden Spur Award** (Artists' Choice) – \$250.00

**Arrowhead Award** (Facility's Board Member's Choice) – \$250.00

**Patsy E. Lane Memorial Award** -- \$100

**Best Plains Landscape**–\$200.00 **Mystery Award** (APA Exe. Committee's Choice) –\$200.00

The previous two awards are to encourage diversity of subject matter in artwork.

\*\*\*\*All of the awards above and all ribbons are given by the **American Plains Artists**\*\*\*\*

**Publisher's Award of Excellence** – Half-Page Ad sponsored by *Art of the West* \$1,780.00 value

**Publisher's Award of Excellence** – Half-Page Ad sponsored by *Western Art & Architecture*  
\$3,050.00

**Publisher's Award of Excellence** – Half-Page Artist's Focus Award sponsored by *Western Art Collector* \$3,600.00 value

**Exhibition Award – Five Awards** – sponsored by Fort Concho NHL, San Angelo, TX

**Artist's Retreat Award** – given by **Our Heritage Guest Ranch**, Jean Norman, Owner, Crawford, NE \$400.00 value

**The Texas Award** – One-year subscriptions to *Texas Highways* and *Texas Parks and Wildlife* given by the American Plains Artists, and a copy of *Texas Forts Trail* by Texas Authors Derrick Birdsall and Kristine Davis given by the Fort Concho Foundation.

**Award of Excellence** – Ribbons and Bragging Rights

## Other Awards Possible

## Art Purchases

**Sales commission of 30% will apply and will benefit both Fort Concho National Historic Landmark and the American Plains Artists.**

## Jury Process via Digital Entries

Initial jurying will be from the submitted Digital Entries sent via the APA website. To enter, go to the Show and Events tab and then the Juried Show Entry Page on the APA website. Then click on any of the highlighted links on that page for the prospectus or the entry form. Submitted entries will be reviewed by a panel of APA Signature Members on the aesthetic and technical skills of the artist in depicting the theme of the Great Plains. Awards Juror Phil Bob Borman will choose works to receive awards after viewing the original works selected for inclusion in the exhibit.

## Eligibility

Open to artists working in any traditional 2D or 3D fine art media in a realistic or representational manner reflecting the theme of the American Plains **completed within the last three years with the exception of sculpture** (no time constraints on sculpture), original work only, and not previously shown in an Annual Juried APA Show. No photography or computer-generated art accepted.

- **We must have both the image size of the artwork itself and the outside dimensions of the frame. The maximum size for 2D work is 1564 square inches including the outside dimension of the frame.** An example of that is a 24"x36" artwork with a five-inch frame. **Sculpture would be of moderate size and not exceed 100 pounds.**
- *Artwork must represent the theme of the show (the American Great Plains).*
- **All works must be for sale, with a 30% commission collected on all sales.**

## NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES' ARTISTS:

**Due to the difficulties in returning unsold artworks to artists who live outside the USA borders, our neighboring countries' artists are required to make arrangements to have their artwork return-shipped to a gallery near the border in the USA or to a friend within the USA. It will be the responsibility of the neighboring countries' artists to pick up their artwork from that gallery or friend in the USA or make arrangements with the gallery or friend in the USA to get their artwork returned across the border.**

## Entry Procedure

**Go to the "Shows and Events" and then to "Juried Art Show" on the APA website: [www.americanplainsartists.com](http://www.americanplainsartists.com). The 2026 Entry Form and all the info about entering the show is on that page.**

**Please be sure to complete the Entry Form in its entirety. Be sure to put <http://www>. (or if secure, <https://>) before your website address.**

- Attach the digital images you wish to submit with the following guidelines. Your **digital images** must have a resolution of 300 dpi and be 700 pixels on the longest side of the artwork. The file should be kept under 3MB. See the video on the **Video Guide** Tab for help in preparing your images. (continued to next page)

Each two-dimensional jpg **file name** should be named as follows:

- Last Name, First Name Title of Art Size Media \$Price
- Example: Doeartist, John Kansas Skies 16x20 Oil \$1000.00

For 3D artists you may submit one or two additional images such as a side and back view or detail image to represent one entry. Your jpg file name format will be like this example:

- Doeartist, John Bronc Rider 15Hx10Lx10D Bronze \$2000.00
- Doeartist, John Bronc Rider side view 15Hx10Lx10D Bronze
- Doeartist, John Bronc Rider detail 15Hx10Lx10D Bronze

Once you have completed the entry form and attached your files, copy and paste or type the following four addresses into the address line: [jennifer@americanplainsartists.com](mailto:jennifer@americanplainsartists.com), [lou@americanplainsartists.com](mailto:lou@americanplainsartists.com), [jammey@americanplainsartists.com](mailto:jammey@americanplainsartists.com), and [judy@americanplainsartists.com](mailto:judy@americanplainsartists.com). In the Subject Line type: **APA Entry and your last name and first name (APA Entry Doe, Jane)**. Type any note you wish to send to us. Then send your email. Your entry files will be sent to the APA Image Recorder, Secretary, Historian, and President. We will later email you a copy of your entry for your records.

**The entry fee and membership fee are to be paid via PayPal** (either as a Member of PayPal [your password required] or as a Guest of PayPal [NO password required]) **through the APA website in the amount of \$100.00** (\$50 Entry fee [includes up to three entries] and \$50 Membership fee—or just send the \$50 Entry fee if you paid your membership fee earlier in the year).

**No entries accepted after this date, May 2, 2026.**

**Note: SHIPPING INFORMATION**

**Accepted artists will be sent specific instructions in their acceptance letter for the shipment/delivery of artwork to the Fort Concho National Historic Landmark.**

- **However, artists should be aware that they are responsible for all shipping costs to and from the museum and that there is a \$15 fee per crate/box. (See below.)**
- **Art should be sent in sturdy reusable containers. Do Not use Styrofoam peanuts of any kind. Bubblewrap is recommended.**
- **Accepted artists will pay \$15.00 to the Fort Concho NHL per crate/box for unboxing/uncrating-reboxing/recreating their artwork. It should be sent at the time the artists ship their work.**
- **If a new box or extra bubblewrap, etc. is needed to be purchased to re-pack the artwork, then a fee will be charged in addition to the \$15.00 boxing fee.**
- **All artwork must be sent and returned by Fed Ex or UPS paid by the artist. A pre-paid completed return label will be required by the end of the show.**
- **NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES' ARTISTS see additional note under "Eligibility".**

## 2026 Calendar

1. **Deadline for digital entries:** **May 2, 2026**
2. **Notification of Accepted Artworks will be emailed on or before:** **May 23rd**
3. **Accepted work should be shipped to arrive:** **June 8-13th**
4. **Hand Delivery of Work to the Fort Concho:** **June 8-13th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Email or call Bob Bluthardt to schedule an appointment in advance. (325.234.0316)  
[director@fortconcho.com](mailto:director@fortconcho.com)
5. **Artists' bios/statements due to Bob Bluthardt:** **June 18th**
6. **Opening Reception:** **Saturday, June 20th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**
7. **After the Reception Supper-Dinner and APA Annual Meeting:** **June 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 p.m.**
8. **Closing of the Show: Fort Concho NHL:** **August 2nd, 4 p.m.**
9. **Pickup of Unsold Hand-Delivered Artwork:** **August 4-8th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Email or call Bob Bluthardt to schedule an appointment in advance. (325.234.0316)
10. **Return Shipping of Unsold Artwork:** **August 4-14th**

**If someone needs to make special arrangements they should call or email:**

**Bob Bluthardt, Fort Concho Site Manager**

Fort Concho National Historic Landmark

**Phone: 325.234.0316**

Email: [director@fortconcho.com](mailto:director@fortconcho.com)

Questions? View the APA website at [www.AmericanPlainsArtists.com](http://www.AmericanPlainsArtists.com) or send an email to one of the following:

**Judy McElroy, APA President & Show Chairperson:** [judy@americanplainsartists.com](mailto:judy@americanplainsartists.com)

**Lou Albright, APA Secretary:** [lou@americanplainsartists.com](mailto:lou@americanplainsartists.com)

Entry Form is on the next page.

**Art of the Plains 2026**  
**American Plains Artists Forty-first Annual Juried Exhibit & Sale**  
 Fort Concho National Historic Landmark  
 630 South Oakes Street – San Angelo, TX 76903

Please Print or Type or **Type in an Email (preferred method)**

Name

Address

City State Zip

Daytime Phone

Evening or Cell Phone

Email

Website

**Digital Entries—Please Type Each Entry As In Example Below—Do not number your entries.**

Title	Artwork Size			Outside Frame			Medium	Price
	"H	"W	"D	"H	"W	"D		
<b>DOE, JOHN</b>								
<b>Faraway Horizons</b>	<b>16 x 20</b>			<b>20 x 24</b>			<b>Oil</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Prairie Fire</b>	<b>22 x 30</b>			<b>26 x 34</b>			<b>WC</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>String Beans</b>	<b>16 x 10</b>			<b>20 x 14</b>			<b>Acrylic</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>

**Check List:**

     **Completed Entry Form**

     **\$100.00 Fee** for 1-3 digital entries—includes Associate membership of \$50.00 and \$50.00 entry fee (Or just \$50 entry fee if your membership fee was paid earlier in the year). Pay your entry fee and membership fee via PayPal on the APA website: [www.americanplainsartists.com](http://www.americanplainsartists.com).

**Non-Liability-** The American Plains Artists and Fort Concho NHL’s sponsors, agents or employees shall not be liable for loss or damage to any works of art entered. All artwork will be insured by Fort Concho NHL once it is on their premises and until it leaves the premises. It is also recommended you carry your own private insurance, as well as during transit of your art to and from the exhibit. Any claims for damage, or other loss, will be made with your shipping carrier and your insurance by you, the artist. It is understood that once an artist has work juried into the show, it must be sent to the show for exhibit. If it sells prior to the show, the artist will pay the commission to APA and Fort Concho NHL and honor his/her commitment to show the work at Fort Concho NHL. The sales commission for this show is 30% and benefits both the APA and Fort Concho NHL. Artists get 70% of the list price of their sold artwork. Monies will be paid to the artist when received monies clear the bank or at end of the show. All artwork must remain in the show until the show closes--No Early Releases. Participation shows that the entrant understands and accepts this clause and conditions as stated.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_