



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CHESTNUT GROUP GIVES BACK WITH ART SHOW & SALE AT MBA

The Southeast's most prestigious plein air painters capture Nashville landscapes and donate profits from the second annual "Painting to Preserve"

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee lays claim to the region's largest and most accomplished group of plein air painters, The Chestnut Group. Founded in 2001, this group of artists has been painting and preserving Nashvillian's favorite green spaces for more than twenty years. In June, The Chestnut Group is partnering with Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA) to present the second annual **"Painting to Preserve" Art Show & Sale, Jun. 24-26, 2022**. Hosted on MBA's campus, member submissions will feature beloved alfresco settings in middle Tennessee, including Radnor Lake, Cheekwood, Shelby Bottoms, Warner Parks, and the campus of MBA, to name a few. All art lovers and conservation enthusiasts are encouraged to attend the **Opening Reception on Friday, Jun. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m.** **Admission is free and open to the public.**

The Chestnut Group began its mission twenty years ago as a nonprofit alliance of landscape artists and conservationists dedicated to protecting endangered places, celebrating open spaces, and documenting historic landmarks and structures. Through art show fundraisers and exhibits featuring original Chestnut Group artist creations, the membership has raised more than \$500,000 to support over 25 local partner organizations. Most recently, The Chestnut Group received positive coverage of their efforts to support and save Lockeland Springs Park in East Nashville. Their show at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center was attended by Mayor John Cooper and exceeded all expectations. [Channel 5 News Story – [Video package](#), [Website Story](#), [Photos](#).]

At the annual "Painting to Preserve" show, **participating Chestnut artists donate** a portion of their sales to MBA's financial aid program and to the administration of The Chestnut Group organization, which will be used towards future shows with local partners.

"This show is special because it represents the camaraderie of this group," said Painting to Preserve Co-Chair, Ellen Parker Bibb. "We paint together all-over Middle Tennessee. From Shelby Bottoms to Franklin Parks to Sylvan Park, we painted through the pandemic – we supported each other, and the sale of our work has supported other organizations. It's always interesting to see the diversity of what these artists have produced and submit to this show."

Current President of The Chestnut Group, Judson Newbern, said, "We are grateful for our partnership with MBA as an institution that believes in the mission of The Chestnut Group and supports local artisans. This show is the one time each year that we exhibit works from a variety of Tennessee locations. Every other show contains only paintings from the lands of the partner hosting that exhibit." Newbern added, "We invite all of Nashville to attend the Opening Reception – it will be a fun night and weekend!"

Montgomery Bell Academy, a longstanding supporter of The Chestnut Group, will host the 2nd annual “Painting to Preserve” exhibit on their historic campus in the **Davis Building, 4001 Harding Road**. In keeping with the group’s financial support of partner organizations, proceeds will benefit MBA as well as The Chestnut Group and Chestnut artists. Opening Reception is on **Friday, Jun. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m.** Show hours on Saturday, Jun. 25 are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Jun. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

About The Chestnut Group

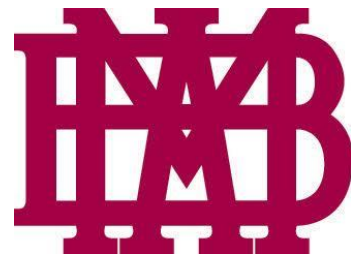
Founded in 2001 as a nonprofit alliance of volunteer outdoor painting enthusiasts, The Chestnut Group has collaborated with local nonprofit partners sharing the same vision of preserving fragile local environments, threatened habitats, and protected natural areas. While offering artists the opportunity to explore the advantages of painting outdoors, the membership and their partners represent a unique alliance with the artistic world. To date, The Chestnut Group has raised more than a half-million dollars for preservation partners through the sale of members’ work. Embraced by Tennesseans for over two decades, plein air painting has become an international phenomenon.

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Show partners:



ChestnutGroup.org

MontgomeryBell.edu