



Cedarburg has a history of being a haven for outdoor painters from the late nineteenth century to the present day. More recently, in 2001 the Cedarburg Artists Guild started a June Plein Air painting competition that now brings in 150 artists to paint outdoors in our area, capturing the light and essence of a small town surrounded by rural beauty.

Ozaukee Bank's Gift to the Future:

In 2001, artist Sandra Pape approached Mal Hepburn, Ozaukee Bank President & Founder, to see if the bank would sponsor a new Plein Air painting event that the Cedarburg Artist Guild was developing under the direction of Sandra. The Bank agreed to fund the \$2,000 Best of Show purchase award. The event was a great success, so the bank decided to make it a tradition and continued supporting the event in this capacity until the bank was sold in 2008. At that time, Mal & Jill Hepburn continued supporting the purchase award so that the paintings would stay together in one collection.

When Ozaukee Bank was sold to BMO Harris, money was set aside in a trust fund to support the future Cedarburg Art Museum, along with other cultural, artistic, and service groups in the community. Today, the Ozaukee Bank's Gift to the Future Fund continues to provide the Best of Show purchase award. These award-winning paintings from 2000 to the current year are now a part of the collection of the Cedarburg Art Museum for the benefit and enjoyment of the community.

The Cedarburg Art Museum's mission is to collect, exhibit, and forever preserve, the artwork of Cedarburg and its environs. Their endeavors will promote Cedarburg Wisconsin as a small but dynamic center for the creative arts in America. Through museum's home in a historic building, exhibitions and a diverse permanent collection, they look to tell the story of Cedarburg through the eyes of artists.

Visit the museum at W63N675 Washington Avenue, downtown Cedarburg. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10-4 and Sunday noon to 4pm.

