



125 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401

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Contact: Thomas Provost  
Phone: 843.727.4500  
Email: [m@mgalleryoffineart.com](mailto:m@mgalleryoffineart.com)  
Website: [www.mgalleryoffineart.com](http://www.mgalleryoffineart.com)

## **M Gallery to Host AIS National Juried Exhibition**

CHARLESTON, S.C. (August 2, 2013) - M Gallery of Fine Art will be hosting this year's American Impressionist Society (AIS) 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Juried Exhibition. The exhibition is scheduled to run from September 28 to October 30 in the gallery at 125 Meeting Street with the AIS reception and awards presentation October 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 to 8 pm and a public reception Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> 5 to 8 pm, in conjunction with the French Quarter Art Walk.

Kenn Backhaus, AISM (American Impressionist Society Master) is the Judge of Awards and will be conducting a painting demonstration in the gallery Oct. 4.

Kenn Backhaus was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and spent much of his childhood on the family farm near Burnett, Wisconsin. His fondness for nature became the catalyst for his art. Kenn's parents encouraged his artistic education and following High School, he attended Layton School of Art in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As a commercial designer and illustrator Kenn received many awards at both local and national levels, which included acceptance in the 30th Annual Society of Illustrators Show in New York City. Although Kenn took pride in his commercial successes, his heart always belonged to the fine art of outdoor painting.

With his developing interest in the historic traditions of plein air painting, Kenn decided in 1984, to devote more time to his passion for painting and the love of the outdoors. His works have been juried into many shows across the country and his paintings have been honored with numerous Best of Show awards and distinctions. He regularly serves as an acceptance juror and awards judge for many shows around the country. He enjoys giving back and has served as an instructor for over ten years. Kenn was part of a PBS series entitled, "Plein Air, Painting the American Landscape". Kenn is now one of the host artists of a new high definition 13-part series, Passport & Palette™ represents the next generation of art education on public television.

Kenn is a member of the California Art Club, Northwest Rendezvous Group, a Master Signature Member of both the Oil Painters of America and the American Impressionist Society, a Signature member of the Plein-Air Painters of America. He also served as President of the Plein-Air Painters of America. Kenn was one of the Master Artists at the first Plein Air Convention hosted by the Plein Air Magazine in Las Vegas, NV in April of 2012. Kenn was also invited as one of the Master Artists at the Weekend With the Masters Workshop and Conference in September of 2012, held at the luxurious Rancho Bernardo Inn, near San Diego, California.

For more information please contact M Gallery of Fine Art at 843.727.4500, [m@mgalleryoffineart.com](mailto:m@mgalleryoffineart.com), [www.mgalleryoffineart.com](http://www.mgalleryoffineart.com), or stop in 125 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401.