

16. 17TH ANNUAL RIO GRANDE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL - HOLIDAY SHOW

Albuquerque, New Mexico; November. Produced by Ruth Gore/Rio Grande Festivals.

This year was the a great year for Ruth Gore's shows — including the 16th Annual Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival – Holiday Show, held in November, 2015.

Much like Rio Grande's Spring Show, **SA** voters reported sales of \$5,000-\$10,000 per artist. These sales figures, combined with a hearty number of overall votes, pushed this show up a huge number this year — up from #53 in 2015 all the way up to #16 in 2016.

Sunshine Artist New Mexico and National Reporter, Jim Carnevale, also praised the show in a review earlier this year. "Promoter Ruth Gore has a knack when it comes to bringing in an abundance of willing buyers into her shows, and she and her staff managed to do it again this year."

Carnevale added that his photography sales were among the best he had ever experienced, and said he had three solid days of sales at the holiday event.

17. WICKFORD ART ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL

Wickford Village, North Kingstown, Rhode Island; July. Produced by the Wickford Art Association.

Continuing the upward trend in this year's **Sunshine Artist 200 Best** shows of 2016, the Wickford Art Association Festival jumped from #59 in the fine art and design show category in 2015 to #17 this year.

SA 200 Best voters gave the show high marks with the majority of artists reporting earnings over \$10,000, and the rest making \$2,000-\$5,000. With an estimated attendance of over 75,000 patrons, the potential for traffic and sales makes Wickford a favorable East Coast circuit spot.

In a *FastAudit* review regarding the 2015 summer show, an oil painter commented: "People come to this show to buy art."

Another artist, a woodworker, accumulated several commissions and praised the "great advertising and a crowd that really knows what and appreciates art." The woodworker did note it was "really hot," and a photographer concluded the heat affected sales, traffic, and even his/her ability to think.

Perhaps the show could have rated even higher this year without the high temperatures that stifled some artists' sales; that being said, the continued rise of the Wickford Art Association Festival makes it a winner.

18. SUGARLOAF CRAFTS FESTIVAL HOLIDAY

Chantilly, Virginia; December. Produced by Sugarloaf Crafts Festivals/Sugarloaf Mountain Works, Inc.

Switching categories and climbing up the ranks, the Sugarloaf Crafts Festival Holiday racked up some good voter numbers in the 2016 **Sunshine Artist 200 Best**. This year the show placed #18 in the fine art and design show category, while in 2015 it placed #46 in the classic and contemporary craft show category.

A solid contender, the 58 percent of **SA** voters claimed earnings of over \$10,000 at the show, while the balance earned \$2,000-\$5,000.

Held at the Dulles Expo Center, this indoor holiday show offers free parking, and free admission to children under 12. Admission at the door costs \$10 per person. More than 300 artists sell their unique items, there are interactive artist demonstrations, live music, food, and the show also proudly features new and emerging artists.



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