

3. SUMMERFAIR

Cincinnati, Ohio; May. Produced by Summerfair Cincinnati.

Making a category change and a leap up in this year's *200 Best*, in 2016 Summerfair ranked a whopping third in the classic and contemporary crafts category. This is a notable increase in rank over the past two years, recovering from a dip in 2014's ranking of the fair which was attributed to poor weather.

In 2015, the fair was ranked #16 in the fine arts and design category. This shift in category indicates that **Sunshine Artist** voters who categorized themselves as fine crafters said that 20 percent of them earned over \$10,000 at the show, 20 percent made between \$5,000-\$10,000, and 60 percent brought home a comfortable \$2,000-\$5,000 each.

Summerfair takes place at the ever-popular Cincinnati Coney Island Amusement Park. The fair has grown from a small salute to the opening of Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park to an annual must-see event that brings in over 20,000 patrons to the arts and crafts event.

SA auditors reported earning an average of \$3,477 at Summerfair in 2015, noting the event was "solid." Florida and National Reporter, Donna Wilson, called Summerfair "one of the best summertime shows," adding the fair offers a "great artists' party with awards announcements."

The 2017 Summerfair will mark the show's 50th anniversary, and patrons and exhibitors alike look forward to next year's event.



4. THE CHEESMAN PARK ART FEST

Denver, Colorado; July. Produced by Liz Gore/Dash Events.

New to the *200 Best*, The Cheesman Park Art Fest in Denver, Colo., made this year's top five classic and contemporary craft show list because of one thing — strong sales. All **Sunshine Artist** *200 Best* voters indicated they earned \$5,000-\$10,000 at the art fest in 2015. This is a remarkable achievement for a show with less than five years on the scene.

In 2015, over 300 artist applications were submitted, but only half were accepted into this juried event, which showcases a pretty even mix of fine arts and fine crafts. The art fest is free for patrons to attend, and the event does not allow any commercial booths or sales. It is focused on providing only authentic, handcrafted work.

Show produce Liz Gore says, "We plan to keep this show just as it is — charming and walkable, with work that is top-notch, yet attainable."

Jim Carnevale, **Sunshine Artist** New Mexico and National Reporter, wrote in his review of the 2015 show, "Given Liz Gore's involvement with Rio Grande Festivals, it comes as no surprise that she is well on her way to being one of the 'Best in the West' with her own Dash Events, and her 2015 Cheesman Park Art Fest proves it again"

