



Artists Prospectus: *4th Annual "Into the Wild"*
Open Juried Art Exhibition & Sale, September 24 – September 26, 2026
Events on Front, 130 N Front St., Wilmington, NC

The Wildlife Artists of the Carolinas, Inc. (WAOTC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, invites all artists who are 18 years or older and reside in North Carolina or South Carolina to participate in the Fourth Annual "Into the Wild" Open Juried Art Exhibition and Sale. This event will take place at Events on Front in Wilmington, NC, from September 24 through September 26, 2026. We are pleased to announce that the exhibition will be judged by Richard "Rick" Conn, artist, educator, and curator (see more about the judge on page 5).

Wildlife Art Guidelines

This is a fine art exhibition focused on wildlife. "Wildlife" encompasses animals and plants that exist in their natural habitats, free from human intervention. All submitted works must represent wildlife as wild and free, not domesticated or living in captivity. While evidence of human activity or objects created by people may be included in nature images, they should only appear if essential to the narrative of the artwork. Art that features human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral or domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals, or mounted or preserved zoological specimens will not be accepted.

Important Dates for Artists

Registration Opens	August 1, 2026	8:00am
Registration Closes	August 23, 2026	11:59pm
Acceptance Notifications	September 1, 2026	11:59pm
Bin Work Registration (2D only)	September 11, 2026	11:59pm
Check-In	Wed, September 23	10:00am-12:00pm
Judge's Walk-through	Friday, September 25	5:00-6:00pm
Reception & Awards Ceremony	Friday, September 25	6:00-9:00pm
Check-Out	Saturday, September 26	2:00-3:30pm

Exhibition Schedule

Exhibition & Sale	Thursday, September 24	11:00am – 5:00pm
Exhibition & Sale	Friday, September 25	11:00am – 9:00pm *Reception 6:00-9:00
Exhibition & Sale	Saturday, September 26	10:00am – 2:00pm

REGISTRATION FEES, ENTRY GUIDELINES, AND CONDITIONS

Artists must complete their registration form at **WAOTC.com**, with payment (PayPal or Credit Card) no later than 11:59pm on August 23, 2026.

- *A good quality image, without the frame or other distractions, must be uploaded with the registration for each entry.*
- *Each photo file must be named to match the title of the artwork*

Application fee:

WAOTC Members: \$35.00 non-refundable fee, for up to 3 pieces

Non-WAOTC members: \$45.00 non-refundable fee, for up to 3 pieces

Artists can enter up to 3 pieces of artwork, regardless of category.

WAOTC members are guaranteed that at least one piece of art will be accepted.

Membership must be current to receive member discount. To join or renew, click here:

<https://waotc.com/membership>

All art must be for sale (**NFS OR COMMISSION ARTWORKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**).

The artist is committed to the pieces submitted, the sale price(s) and titles listed upon registration.

Sales will be subject to a 30% commission. Sales tax will be collected and paid by WAOTC.

Checks for sold work will be mailed to the artist the week after the exhibition closes.

WAOTC reserves the right to use the images of selected artwork for publicity purposes only. Any other uses are strictly prohibited.

ALL art submitted to the juried exhibition must be original (this applies to all categories, all mediums) Except for 2D bin work, no reproductions will be accepted. All work must be the creation and original design of the artist. Pieces that originate from a workshop, class or under the direction of an instructor are not considered original. For works based on reference photographs, the artist must have taken the photo or have obtained permission from the photographer to create the work. 2D artists may use reference images from royalty-free stock photography sites, but images should be altered enough or used in a way to still create an original composition – please note that this does not apply to photography. Artwork submitted as photography must originate from an image taken by the photographer. Artwork created using artificial intelligence (AI) is not eligible. Art based on published material or another artist's work is not eligible. For 3D work, no pieces made using commercial molds or other commercial kits will be accepted.

Art that has been shown at previous WAOTC juried award shows is not eligible for this exhibition.

2D Art and Photography/Digital Art

- Must not exceed 36" wide and 48" height, including frame, and must not exceed 10 lbs.
- No glass on artwork >30" in any direction. All framed artwork over 30" needing protective cover must use plexiglass.
- 2D work includes watercolors, acrylics, oils, pastels, drawings, mixed media, other works on paper.
- Photography and digital art will compete in a separate category from 2D Art.
- Must be professionally presented, framed, or gallery-wrapped (1½" minimum), wired, and ready to install according to the Wiring Diagram on Page 6. For gallery-wrapped pieces, all edges must be painted with the continuing image or a solid color.
- Simple frames preferred. All frames must be free of scratches and dents.
- Must be ready for installation on the display walls at check-in. NO SAWTOOTH, eye hooks or other installation apparatus allowed. See Wiring Diagram on Page 5.
- Complete and print ID labels (using template on Page 7) and affix to the **back upper left corner** of each 2D piece of artwork. Each label must include: ARTIST NAME, TITLE, MEDIUM, SIZE, PRICE, PHONE #
- Artwork that does not meet this criteria will be rejected at the time of delivery. All decisions made by the intake committee are final.

3D ART:

- Table-displayed artworks must not exceed 50 lbs. 3D artwork to be hung cannot exceed 10 lbs.
- Accepted mediums include fine art woodworking, fiber art (e.g., silk dying, weaving, felting, and art quilling), fused and stained glass, sculpture, metal art, and mixed media sculptures.
- Pottery must be hand-built or thrown. *No work made from commercial molds.*
- Complete and print ID labels (using template on Page 7) and affix to **the bottom** of each 3D piece. Each label must include: ARTIST NAME, TITLE, MEDIUM, SIZE, PRICE, PHONE #.
- Artwork that does not meet this criteria will be rejected at the time of delivery. All decisions made by the intake committee are final.

BIN WORK:

Accepted artists will be able to display a limited number of 2D bin art (no 3D bin art for this show). 5 pieces of bin work per registration form. All bin work must adhere to wildlife theme. Please indicate on your show application form whether you would like to exhibit bin work. A link for your bin work inventory will be sent with your acceptance notice, along with the deadline to submit. Bin work will not be part of judging. You do not need to submit images for bin work. WAOTC reserves the right to refuse bin work that does not conform with the guidelines listed in this prospectus.

2D bin work:

- Maximum 5 pieces of bin work (prints or reproductions) per artist
- No individual bins. WAOTC will provide a limited number of bins, labeled as “original”, “reproductions” or “photography” to displays our members’ unframed work.
- Bin work can be original unframed art &/or reproductions and must be labeled as such.
- Maximum size is 16x20”, maximum canvas width is 5/8”
- ALL bin work should be presented in a professional manner: All art (including canvas) should be backed with foam board or mat board and be protected by shrink-wrap or acetate/clear bag, with bags/plastic wrap appropriate to the size of the art.
- Artists must label each piece of bin work. Labels should include artist’s name, title, medium, size and price, and clearly state either “original” or “reproduction”. Label should be affixed to the top right of the protective wrapping.

AWARDS

Ribbons and monetary awards will be given in all three categories (2D, 3D, Photography). Award amounts are determined by participation levels and sponsorships.

GIVING BACK

As part of our mission to advocate for wildlife in communities within the Carolinas, we raise money for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups. This show will support Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary in Hubert, NC. In conjunction with the exhibition, we will be running a raffle to fundraise for this organization. Artists participating in this exhibition are encouraged to donate a piece of artwork for this raffle. All 2D & 3D mediums will be accepted and artwork for the raffle does not need to adhere to the wildlife theme; however, donated artwork should measure 10” or less.

ARTWORK DELIVERY & PICK-UP

All art must be delivered to Events on Front between 10:00am-12:00pm on Wednesday, September 23.

All art must be picked up from Events on Front on Saturday, September 26, between 2:00-3:30pm.

Events on Front is located at 130 N Front St, in downtown Wilmington, NC 28401.

Neither WAOTC nor Events on Front can hold art past the exhibition’s dates/times. A storage fee of \$50 will be assessed for any art not picked up by the end of the show.

Although the utmost care will be taken when handling the entries, neither WAOTC nor Events on Front will be held liable for damaged or lost artwork. Artists are encouraged to obtain an art insurance policy for their artwork.

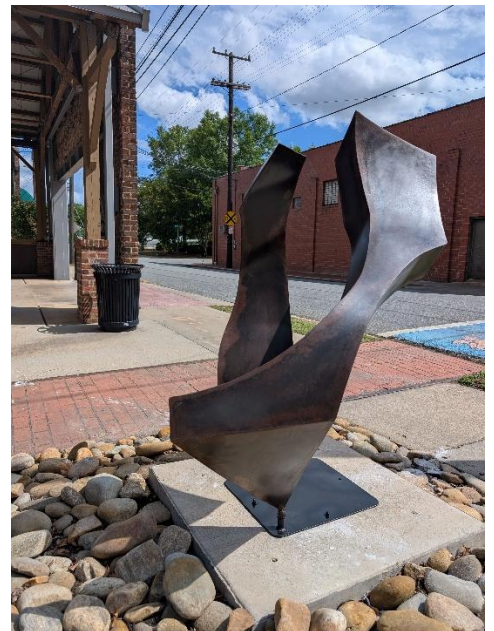
EXHIBITION JUDGE: RICHARD "RICK" CONN

Richard "Rick" Conn is an American sculptor, educator, and curator whose work explores the physical and psychological boundaries of space. Specializing in metal sculpture and kinetic fabrications, Conn creates structural, often interactive pieces that invite viewers to engage directly with the artwork, shifting the audience from passive observers to active participants. His creative philosophy centers on the dialogue between interior and exterior spaces, utilizing rigid mediums like steel and wood to construct dynamic, thought-provoking environments.

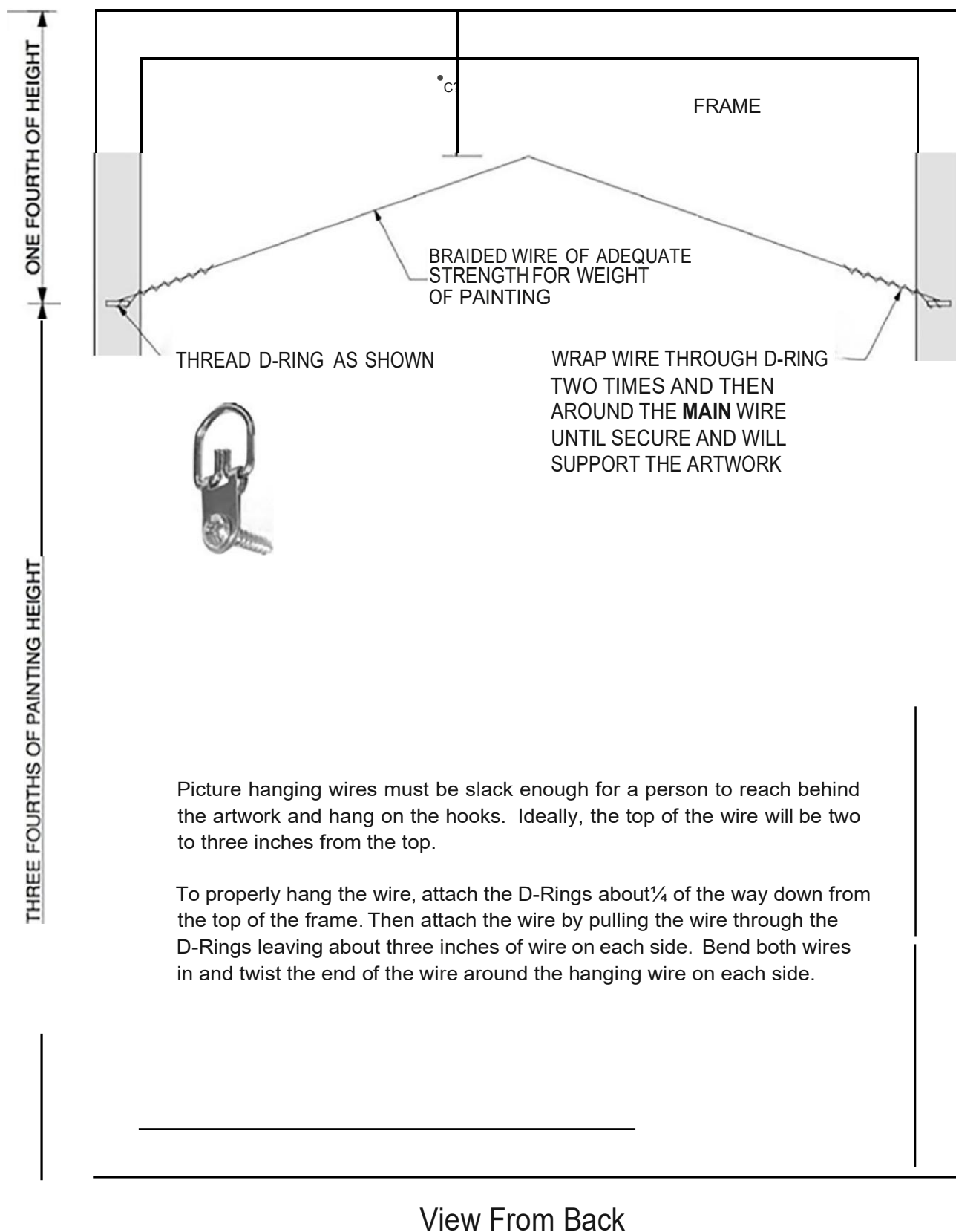
Conn's foundational exploration of interactive forms culminated in his definitive thesis project, *Device: An Exploration of Interior and Exterior Space as an Aspect of Interactive Sculpture*. His portfolio spans a diverse range of disciplines, including complex metalwork, finely turned wood, public murals, and kinetic installations.

Beyond his studio practice, Conn is a dedicated advocate for the arts community and a seasoned academic leader. He previously served as the Department Chair of Visual Arts at Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he was instrumental in shaping the fine arts curriculum and fostering emerging talent. As the long-time coordinator and curator of CFCC's Wilma W. Daniels Gallery, Conn has spent years championing contemporary artists and managing year-round exhibitions that bridge the gap between regional talent and global artistic movements.

Conn holds a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Sculpture from Western Carolina University. He continues to instruct, create, and push the boundaries of dimensional design from his studio.



WIRING GUIDELINES:



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