

TOP 20 GALLERIES



American Art Awards Selects The 20 Best Art Galleries In USA For 2026

October 3, 2026. Los Angeles.

The American Art Awards has selected the 20 Best Galleries In USA, 2026. Decisions were based on years established, industry reputation, online interest, location, size, aesthetics, socially relevant exhibits as well as represented artists.

American Art Awards: “This year we awarded beacons of art in San Francisco, Portland, Miami, San Antonio, Honolulu – as well as cultural landmarks making an impact on their communities in Boise, Hackensack, Stowe, Sioux Valley and Sedona.”

“We opted for world-class galleries in treasured historical buildings as well as freestanding modern facilities with influential international presences. We also decided on revered institutions selling more commercialized art to private collectors as well as to museums, upscale hotels, restaurants and corporations.

“We selected several multi-story galleries and expansive facilities over 20,000 sq. ft. as well as smaller experimental spirited vortexes of creativity concentrating on abstract, conceptual and expansive spiritual or allegorical art.

“Our Florida choice has four locations equaling 20,000 sq ft making it the largest exhibition space in South Florida with close proximity to Art Basel & Art Miami. We selected the largest gallery in the Southwest, one of the largest galleries in Delaware, and a New Jersey landmark within a close proximity to New York City, playing an important part in the discourse surrounding contemporary art and issues.

“Realism and representational art has long been the focus of our California pick, which has also developed a number of historic artist estates, primarily of mid-century American painters. Our multi-purpose cultural hub in Pennsylvania showcases innovative and challenging contemporary art. Our South Dakota space brings museum-caliber exhibitions along with rigorous curatorial and educational context offering serious contemporary discourse to that region. Similarly, we selected a 56 year non-profit, community-based institution in South Carolina promoting visual arts and also today’s most current art debates in the upper floor’s seven classrooms.

“Our diverse roster this year includes high-rated women-owned, gay-owned, minority-owned and venues co-owned by married artists exhibiting their own work along with emerging and mid-career contemporary artists.”

The globally-recognized American Art Awards, World Art Awards and Art Collectors Choice Awards are headed by award-winning actor, author and painter Thom Bierdz.

Thom Bierdz: “American Art Awards chases beauty. What a privilege it is for us to work with the most beautiful galleries in USA and the most beautiful contemporary artworks from around the world.”

American Art Awards 20 Best Galleries for 2026 (in alphabetical order by state):

Best In Arizona: Exposures International Gallery Of Fine Art

Best In California: CK Contemporary

Best In Delaware: Peninsula Gallery

Best In Florida: MAC Art Galleries

Best In Hawaii: Kaikoa Gallery

Best In Idaho: Idaho Art Gallery

Best In Missouri: Fresh Gallery

Best In New Jersey: Riverside Gallery

Best In Ohio: Lee Hayden Gallery

Best In Oklahoma: Exhibit C Gallery

Best In Oregon: Ford Gallery PDX

Best In Pennsylvania: Soft Machine Gallery

Best In South Carolina: Sumter County Gallery of Art

Best In South Dakota: Norse Art Space

Best In Texas: San Antonio's Thornwood Gallery

Best In Utah: The Compass Gallery

Best In Vermont: Front Four Gallery

Best In Washington: Ryan James Fine Arts

Best In West Virginia: Paragon Fine Art

GALLERY DESCRIPTIONS:

Best in California: CK Contemporary represents the very best in contemporary American and European artists working across a broad range of styles and media. While realism and representational art has long been the focus of the gallery, they continue to showcase artists whose distinct points of view set them apart within genres as far ranging as abstraction to still-life. The gallery has also developed a number of historic artist estates, primarily of mid-century American painters.

Best in Vermont: Front Four Gallery director Jack Morris demonstrates excellence through commitment, skill, and pushing limits promoting a dynamic selection of high quality and authentic art by emerging and established artists. In the experimental, elevated space, Vermont's premier contemporary gallery provides a variety of art related events for the enthusiastic community in addition to revolving exhibitions of world-class art.

Best in South Carolina: In a stunning 24,000 square-foot facility with three exhibition galleries on the lower floor, The Sumter Gallery of Art is a non-profit, community-based institution. For 56 years their mission has been to present and promote the visual arts, to increase the knowledge and appreciation thereof, and to provide visual art and art education opportunities to Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties. The upper floor's seven classrooms comprise the Elizabeth White School of Art.

Best in Arizona: Rising like a gigantic mystical temple in Sedona, this 20,000 sq ft showplace displays the finest of every style from classical to contemporary. Serving private or commercial needs, Exposures International Gallery Of Fine Art offers small maquettes to monumental bronze and stone sculptures, original oil and acrylic otherworldly paintings, fine art jewelry, enchanting glass art...

Best in Florida: Four locations equaling 20,000 sq ft gives MAC ART GALLERIES the largest exhibition space in South Florida, and with close proximity to Art Basel & Art Miami, they are a vital part of today's art culture. Maintains an in-house Multimedia Department complete with digital photography studio, state-of-the-art Gicleé printing facility-with computer-graphic/prepress. For over 20 years, owner Mary Ann Cohen has represented many of the world's most accomplished and commercial artists: selling internationally to upscale hotels, restaurants, corporations, luxury cruise ships and museums.

Best in Texas: With 30 years of experience in the world of fine art, Thornwood Gallery has earned a reputation for placing high-quality work by international and national artists for residences, corporate offices, and hotels. Their stunning locations in San Antonio and Santa Fe's famous historic Canyon Road focus on 60 of the finest artists and their work, ranging from abstract to impressionism to realism to photography to sculpture.

Best in Idaho: Idaho Art Gallery offers two locations in the Treasure Valley, the original downtown Meridian and newest gallery downtown Boise with Main Gallery plus curated shows in the Feature Room. Diverse inspiring exhibitions feature local, regional, and national artists working in painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics and mixed media-making meaningful connections with art and community.

Best in New Jersey: Riverside Gallery is a 21st century pioneer in exhibiting international and regional artists, showcasing a diverse range of works from abstraction to representation on the topics and the questions that define our time. The Gallery is dedicated to providing opportunities for both established and newer artists, as well as meeting the requirements of high-end collectors and clientele. In Hackensack, NJ, within a close proximity to New York City, playing an important part in the discourse surrounding contemporary art and issues.

Best In Hawaii: Honolulu's Kaikoa Gallery is a vortex of creativity, culture, and community showcasing a dynamic mix of local artists and internationally recognized names. Founders Robert and Carmelita Andia curate world-class collections with bold

contemporary pieces to timeless fine art-and also launch vibrant spirited Hawaiian artists who inspire and transform.

Best in Delaware: For 30 years, Peninsula Gallery, owned and run by Carol and Tony Boyd-Heron, has represented top contemporary artists. With 3,000 sq. ft. to exhibit, it has evolved into one of the largest fine arts galleries in Delaware.

Best in South Dakota: Located in Sioux Falls, Norse Art Space is the state's only dedicated contemporary-art gallery. Established by artists-educators Joe Schaeffer and Cody Henrichs, the gallery brings museum-caliber exhibitions along with rigorous curatorial and educational context offering serious contemporary discourse to the region.

Best in Pennsylvania: Co-owned by Eva Di Orio and John Mortensen, Soft Machine Gallery is a 1,500-square-foot contemporary art space which hosts dynamic exhibitions and performances. The multi-purpose cultural hub in the Lehigh Valley showcases innovative, challenging contemporary art across diverse mediums-from painting and sculpture to multimedia.

Best in Oregon: Located in Portland's historic 1914 Ford Building is the prestigious Ford Gallery PDX which showcases work from local artists to international artists with special emphasis on the Pacific Northwest.

Best in Missouri: Fresh Gallery's mission is to deliberately create an immersive, multi-dimensional experience for artists and art lovers. Fresh Gallery is home to the best fine art talent in Southwest Missouri. Located in Springfield, Missouri, Fresh Gallery offers monthly art exhibits, art curation and installation, and is a provider of unique event space filled with traditional and contemporary art. This landmark is a home for artists of all mediums; paintings, jewelry, sculptures, pottery, mixed media, wood, glass, and photography.

Best in Oklahoma: Exhibit C Gallery is a 10,000 sq. ft. art gallery and retail space located in the Horizons District of Oklahoma City. Owned by the Chickasaw Nation, Exhibit C is filled with authentic pieces of artwork handcrafted by Chickasaw and other First American artists from around the world. Additionally, Exhibit C carries gifts such as Bedré Fine Chocolate, Chickasaw Press books, Mahota Textiles and Pendleton items.

Best in Washington: ryan james fine arts is a contemporary Kirkland art gallery representing 25 local and national artists. Founded in 2011 by Ryan James and joined in 2014 by Jessica Kravitz, the gallery exhibits modern, abstract, and conceptual artworks in a variety of mediums. The Best of 425 Art Gallery Award-425 Magazine. Best Art Gallery-Kirkland Lifestyle Magazine. Merrily Dicks Arts & Culture Award.

Best in West Virginia: Joshua Adamo, owner of the new Paragon Fine Art, purchased the building in 2023 from Marilyn Cooper, who opened Cooper Gallery in the same space nearly 30 years ago. A local design-builder and craftsman, with a history in historic

preservation, the transition was something Adamo manifested through two of his lifelong loves-historic buildings and the world of art.

Best in Ohio: Lee Hayden Gallery has served international art collectors for more than 20 years from Northeastern Ohio. Owner Kevin O'Donnell exhibits new artwork weekly, from original paintings, sculpture and glass– to rare limited edition prints.

Best in Utah: The Compass specializes in expansive spiritual and allegorical art, meaningful timeless works provoking constructive thought and conversation. Located in the historic district of Provo, the gallery favors traditional mediums and expressive representational, semi-representational, and symbolic styles.

American Art Awards site: <https://www.AmericanArtAwards.com>