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Polasek Museum to Host Panel Presentation on Florida *Plein Air* Painting

WINTER PARK, Fla. –The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens will host a panel presentation on “Plein Air and the Florida School of Painters” on Tuesday, March 28, at 7 p.m. This special presentation is a pre-event for the Polasek Museum’s upcoming *plein air* festival, the ninth annual Winter Park Paint Out, to be held in April 2017.

Panelists will share their insights on the history of painting in Florida, the rise of what is called the "Florida School of Painters," and how contemporary *plein air* painting in Florida has continued this tradition and is part of significant art movement. The panel includes a contemporary artist, collectors, a painting appraiser, and an art historian. Art collectors and enthusiasts are welcome, as well as those unfamiliar with the style and tradition of *plein air* painting. The panel format will allow the speakers to engage in a thoughtful discussion and answer questions from the audience.

Anchoring the panel discussion will be art historian and director emeritus of the Museum of Arts & Sciences in Daytona Beach, Gary R. Libby, author of *Reflections: Paintings of Florida 1865-1965*. Libby will provide background context for the discussion, including a look at how landscape painting took off in Florida and why the natural features, weather patterns, and culture stand apart from the national canon. Today, *plein air* artists also play a crucial role in highlighting ongoing ecological conversation issues. Their artwork not only preserves these treasured scenes but also helps shine a light on the disappearing landscapes of Florida.

The presentation will be held in the Historic Capen House located at the Polasek Museum. \$5 Admission, limited seating. Please register at polasek.org/museumevents.

About the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens: Founded in 1961, the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens holds an art collection focusing primarily on American representational sculpture, with more than 200 works by Czech-born American sculptor Albin Polasek. The museum offers guided tours of the historic Polasek residence and chapel, an outdoor sculpture garden and a gift shop. The museum was the retirement home of Polasek until his death in 1965. Polasek was a 2004 Florida Artists Hall of Fame recipient, and his home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is also home to the historic 1885 Capen-Showalter House that was saved from demolition, renovated, and re-opened to the public as an event and meeting space in 2015.

For more information, visit polasek.org, capenhouse.com, or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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