

## ***Spirit of the Wild* Exhibition | Prospectus**

NoCo ARTS | 118 N. College Avenue, Newton, NC 28658

Exhibition Opens: October 7, 2026

Exhibition Closing: November 15, 2026

Submission Deadline: September 12, 2026

Open to All Mediums

### **Exhibition Overview**

*Spirit of the Wild* explores the profound connection between the human spirit and the natural world—the places where we go to breathe more deeply, listen more closely, and remember what truly matters.

Nature is more than a landscape. It is a source of healing, inspiration, transformation, and renewal. From the rhythm of water and the shelter of trees to the fleeting beauty of flowers, changing skies, shifting light, and the textures of the earth, the natural world continually reminds us that we are part of something larger than ourselves.

Through *Spirit of the Wild*, NoCo ARTS invites artists to explore the ways nature shapes our emotional, physical, and creative lives. The exhibition encourages artists to look beyond literal representations of the landscape and consider nature as an experience—something that can evoke memory, emotion, wonder, solitude, resilience, and connection.

### **The Exhibition Theme**

We are seeking artwork that captures the spirit, energy, emotion, and experience of the natural world.

Artists are encouraged to consider questions such as:

- Where do we find stillness in an increasingly noisy world?
- How does nature restore, challenge, or transform us?
- What does the idea of “wild” mean to you?
- How can color, texture, light, movement, and form communicate the feeling of being immersed in nature?
- What can nature teach us about resilience, impermanence, growth, and transformation?
- Where does the human experience intersect with the natural world?

Artwork may interpret these ideas literally, abstractly, symbolically, or conceptually.

From a quiet forest or expansive mountain landscape to a storm-lit sky, a garden in bloom, the rhythm of the ocean, or an entirely imagined natural environment, we invite artists to share their personal interpretation of what it means to encounter the wild.

### **Artist Eligibility**

- 18\* years of age or older
- Must be a US Resident

\*For this exhibition, we will be including 2 student entries. Students 10 - 17 years of age may apply. The Participation Fee will be waived for student applicants. Proof of age may be required upon acceptance.

### **Artwork Eligibility**

- AI-generated submissions will NOT be accepted
- Must be original work of artist submitting application
- Visual artwork must not exceed 48" x 60" in dimension
- Artwork must not have been previously exhibited at NoCo ARTS.

### **Creative Mediums**

*Spirit of the Wild* is open to all artistic mediums, including but not limited to:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Fiber arts
- Mixed media
- Digital and new media
- Collage
- Three-dimensional work

Artists working outside traditional categories are encouraged to submit.

### **Curatorial Vision**

The exhibition will bring together diverse artistic perspectives to create an immersive exploration of humanity's relationship with nature.

Rather than presenting nature simply as scenery, *Spirit of the Wild* seeks to reveal the emotional and spiritual connections we form with the natural world. The selected works should encourage viewers to slow down, look closer, and consider their own relationship with the places, rhythms, and forces of nature.

The exhibition will celebrate both the quiet and the untamed—the moments of stillness found beneath a canopy of trees as well as the power of storms, changing seasons, wild landscapes, and forces beyond our control.

At its heart, *Spirit of the Wild* is an invitation to reconnect.

Nature restores us.

Nature awakens us.

Nature inspires us.

## Submission Information

Submission Deadline: September 12, 2026

Artists should submit **original artwork** that responds to the exhibition theme. To apply, please read guidelines CAREFULLY.

- Complete application form on NoCo ARTS website in its entirety.
- Submit the following items via email to BOTH **traci@nocoartsnc.com** AND **kat@nocoartsnc.com**:
  1. Up to five (5) high-resolution images of artwork to be considered. Filename should include **Artist Name** and **Title**. (ie. *JaneDoe\_BlueSkies.jpg*)
  2. An inventory list that includes: *Title of Artwork, Medium, Dimensions, and Retail Price\**
  3. A few sentences about each piece submitted.
  4. Artist Bio
  5. Artist Statement
- The deadline for submissions is Saturday, **September 12th, 2026**.
- There are no submission fees, however, if you are selected to participate in this exhibition, a \$50 Participation Fee will be required by **September 19, 2026**. The Participation Fee is waived for NoCo ARTS Members. To learn more about our Membership benefits, visit: <https://nocoartsnc.com/products/noco-arts-membership>.

\*The price listed for each submission is the official price of each piece displayed in the gallery. NoCo ARTS retains 40% of sales for Non-Member Artists and 30% for Member Artists. NoCo ARTS also files sales tax on all sales on behalf of the artist.

Submissions will be reviewed with consideration given to:

- Connection to the exhibition theme
- Originality and artistic voice
- Craftsmanship and quality
- Composition and visual impact
- Creativity and interpretation
- Professional presentation

## Exhibition Timeline

- Call for Art | Submission Deadline is end of day, **September 12, 2026.**
- Notification of Acceptance will be emailed by the end of day on **September 16, 2026.**
- Artist Agreement and Participation Fee\* deadline is **September 19, 2026.**
- In-person delivery of artwork must be scheduled with NoCo ARTS during normal business hours on **September 30 - October 3, 2026.**
  - Shipping expenses for artwork delivered to and from NoCo ARTS/Exhibiting Artist will be paid for by the artist.
  - All artwork must be gallery-ready upon delivery. Any artwork delivered without proper hardware will not be displayed in the gallery.
- In-person pick up of artwork from NoCo ARTS will be scheduled for **November 15th** immediately after Artist Q+A or **November 18th - 22nd** during normal business hours.
- Exhibiting Artists will be asked to participate in at least one *Exhibition Experience* which may include the Artist Q+A, an in-person demonstration/presentation, workshop, or interview with local media outlets. This will be scheduled with artists during delivery of artwork.
- The exhibition will open on **Wednesday, October 7, 2026.**
- The Artist Reception will be held at NoCo ARTS on **Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- The Artist Q+A and closing of the exhibition will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2026.**

If there are any questions or concerns about the application process, please contact us via email at: [info@nocoartsnc.com](mailto:info@nocoartsnc.com) or by phone: (704) 325-0130.