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Artisphere earns recognition with top 100 ranking

By Paul Hyde
STAFF WRITER
phyde@greenvillenews.com

Artisphere, Greenville's celebrated visual art festival, continues to earn national accolades.

Now in its sixth year, the annual festival was chosen among thousands nationwide as one of the top 100 Fine Art & Design shows by the readers of *Sunshine Artist* magazine.

Artisphere debuted at No. 83 on the list in the September issue of the Florida-based magazine, with a circulation of more than 35,000. The magazine, which bills itself as "America's premier art and craft magazine," is aimed specifically at artists and art collectors.

Artisphere's ranking could enhance the art festival's reputation as a destination event, according to Artisphere officials.

"The board is so pleased that *Sunshine Artist*'s '100 Best' list recognized Artisphere as one of the premier art festivals in the country," said Michelle Seaver, Artisphere treasurer and senior vice president of Carolina First.

"Exposure from renowned publications such as *Sunshine Artist* catapults Artisphere and Greenville's vibrant art community into the national spotlight."

Tens of thousands of arts patrons attended this year's Artisphere in early May. Artisphere features not only visual artists from around the nation but also offers a broad range of other attractions, including outdoor and indoor concerts, food vendors and activities for children. It generates thousands of dollars for local nonprofits.

In its first appearance in the *Sunshine Artist* rankings, Artisphere placed above well-established art festivals in Albuquerque, N.M., Indianapolis, Ind., Tampa, Fla., Key West, Fla. and many other cities. Louisville's St. James Court Art Show, a huge 53-year-old art festival, was chosen as the nation's best Fine Art & Design show.