



# Western Regional Opening Weekend Schedule of Events • July 11 - 13, 2025

ILLUME  
GALLERY  
WEST

## Friday, July 11

**4:30 – 5:30 pm – The Artists' Hour**

**Location: Illume Gallery West, 130 East Broad Street, Philipsburg, MT**

Artists in the exhibition are warmly invited to an exclusive preview of the show before it opens to the public. Take this opportunity to admire the incredible artwork on display and connect with fellow artists in a relaxed setting.

**5:30 – 9:00 pm – Opening Reception & Award Presentation**

**Location: Illume Gallery West, 130 East Broad Street, Philipsburg**

Join us as we officially open the Western Regional Exhibition. Enjoy delicious refreshments and engaging conversation while viewing some of the finest representational oil paintings from across the western region of North America. OPA is honored to welcome D. Edward Kucera OPAM as our Juror of Awards, who will present this year's winners at approximately 7:30 pm.



## Saturday, July 12

**9:30 am – 12:00 pm – Painting Demonstration with D. Edward Kucera OPAM**

**Location: Opera House Theater, 140 S. Sansome Street, Philipsburg**

Join us for an inspiring and educational painting demonstration by D. Edward Kucera OPAM, an award-winning artist whose work is recognized and exhibited in galleries and private collections across the western United States. Ed's paintings are known for their colorful richness, clever composition, and unique viewpoint, capturing the quiet grandeur of the Western landscape and lifestyle. With a background in both visual art and music, Ed brings a multi-dimensional perspective to his work and his instruction. Whether you're an aspiring artist or a seasoned professional, you'll leave this demonstration with renewed inspiration.



**12:15 – 1:15 pm – Lunch with a View (of Art)**

**Location: Illume Gallery West**

**Cost: \$15 pre-paid**

Take a break and enjoy a delicious catered lunch featuring a variety of sandwiches, chips, and cookies. This is also a great chance to revisit the exhibition and continue conversations with fellow attendees.

**1:30 – 4:00 pm – Painting Demonstration with Suzie Baker OPA**

**Location: Opera House Theater**

Experience the inspiring artistry of Suzie Baker OPA. Suzie has gained national acclaim, earning a stellar reputation for paintings in a wide variety of genres, from landscape to figure. Her award-winning paintings have been featured in publications such as Plein Air Magazine and Fine Art Connoisseur. In this demonstration Suzie will share her process, insights, and enthusiasm for painting. Her observations on technique and her uplifting teaching style make this a not-to-miss session.



**4:30 – 5:30 pm – A Juror's Perspective**

**Location: Illume Gallery West**

Gain valuable insight into what makes a great painting as D. Edward Kucera OPAM discusses the elements that influenced his award selections. This behind-the-scenes look offers a thoughtful perspective on how to more thoroughly enjoy and understand the art featured in the OPA Western Regional Exhibition.



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## 6:00 pm – The Artistic Feast for Artists & Guests

**Location:** Silver Mill Restaurant, 128 E. Broad Street, Philipsburg

**Cost:** \$45 pre-paid (15% gratuity included. Cash bar available)

Cap off the day with a memorable evening at the Silver Mill Restaurant & Bar. Savor a beautifully prepared meal and enjoy the company of fellow artists and guests. Choose from three entrée options: Sirloin Steak, Roast Chicken, or Penne Puttanesca. All meals include a fresh salad and a delicious dessert.



## Sunday, July 13

### Explore Philipsburg on Your Own

Spend the day discovering the charm and character of historic Philipsburg. Explore local attractions like the Granite County Museum, Philipsburg Brewing Company, The Sweet Palace, Gem Mountain Sapphire Mine, and more. For more ideas, [CLICK HERE](#).

### Paint en Plein Air at the Lundgren Ranch

Embrace the natural beauty of Montana as you paint en plein air at the scenic Lundgren Ranch. Mark and Jane Lundgren have graciously opened their property for artists to enjoy a peaceful and inspiring painting experience on Friday and Sunday.



## Advanced Registration & Payment Required!

All artists and guests must register in advance no later than July 2. Register by [CLICKING HERE](#) or by visiting the Western Regional Exhibition page. **IMPORTANT!** OPA will not be able to accommodate any last-minute requests to purchase lunch or join the Artistic Feast on Saturday so please be sure to register in advance!

## Attendee Information

### Airports:

Butte Bert Mooney Airport (BTM) – 1.25-hour drive  
Missoula International Airport (MSO) – 1.5-hour drive  
Helena Regional Airport (HLN) – 2-hour drive

### Hotel Block:

Broadway Hotel - [www.broadwaymontana.com](http://www.broadwaymontana.com)  
Call 406.859.8000 for reservation. Mention OPA when making your reservation.

### Alternative Accommodation Suggestions:

Inn at Philipsburg - [www.theinn-philipsburg.com](http://www.theinn-philipsburg.com)  
Kaiser House - [www.kaiserhousehotel.com](http://www.kaiserhousehotel.com)

### VRBO & AIRBNB Suggestions:

[CLICK HERE](#) for suggestions from our hosts Mark & Jane Lundgren.

If you are willing to share a room and/or a rental car, please let us know and we will let you know if we have someone interested in doing the same. Email Cameryn at [mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com](mailto:mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com).

**HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON IN MONTANA!**