



**SALINA**  
**ARTS**  
& HUMANITIES

## 2023 FESTIVAL PRINT ARTIST ANNOUNCED



# NEWS RELEASE

(Salina, KS 03-23) Illustrator, printmaker, and musician Dan Grissom was selected to design the 2023 Smoky Hill River Festival Print.

Grissom resides in Austin, Texas, but is originally from rural Louisiana. Childhood summer days spent exploring the forests around a nearby creek fostered a love of nature and animals that continues to find its way into his work. His primary focus is screen printing, although his background is in relief printing and painting.



He received a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design from Northwestern State University in Louisiana. After graduating, he pursued a Master's Degree in Painting and Printmaking at Stephen F. Austin State University in East Texas.



The print is a hand-painted 4-color screen print with custom mixed colors. With screen printing, each color layer is printed one at a time and allowed to dry before moving on to the next color layer. Grissom states, "I've titled this piece 'Great Blue Heron on the River' because I sometimes like to keep my titles simple and descriptive. I'm quite pleased with how this turned out, and I hope it transports you to a peaceful place like creating it did for me."

Grissom's work is colorful and marked by minimal, naturalistic compositions and sometimes very intricate line work. His subject matter varies but often involves nature and animals with subtle storytelling elements.

"While researching the wildlife around Salina, Kansas, for this print," Grissom says, "I was transported right back to those childhood summer days sitting by the creek. The landscapes and animals around Salina are pretty similar to what I grew up surrounded by in central Louisiana, so I knew I'd feel at home creating this piece. I've always loved spotting a Great Blue Heron in the wild, and when I saw that those were prominent around Salina, I knew I wanted that to be the focus. I grew up frequently seeing their paler cousin, the Egret, in Louisiana. Other details you can find in this piece are some deer, a dragonfly, some turtles on a log, and a beaver dam."

**RELEASE DATE:**  
IMMEDIATE

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**DATE SUBMITTED:**  
March 16, 2023

The Festival Print is currently available for a donation of \$100 or more to the Smoky Hill River Festival. For more information, call 785-309-5770 or visit [riverfestival.com](http://riverfestival.com).

*The Smoky Hill River Festival, now in its 47th year, is the flagship event of Salina Arts & Humanities. A department of the City of Salina, SAH has served a unique role in arts advocacy and support since 1966. The Smoky Hill River Festival, Horizons Grants program, Smoky Hill Museum, Arts Infusion Program in schools, Community Art & Design, and the Creative Connections e-blast are among the programs of Salina Arts & Humanities, located at 211 W. Iron Avenue in Salina, Ks.*

For needed accommodations, please call Amanda Morris at Salina Arts & Humanities at 785-309-5770 between 8:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Every effort will be made to accommodate known disabilities. For material or speech access, please call at least five working days prior to the event.

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