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THOMAS BURNS OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA NAMED OFFICIAL ARTIST FOR 2016 NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Washington, DC [March 2, 2016] -- The National Cherry Blossom Festival has selected Thomas Burns of Atlanta, Georgia as the 2016 Official Artist. Burns created a one-of-a-kind piece exclusively for the National Cherry Blossom Festival (pictured at right). An annual collector's item, the artwork will be on the official poster and various [merchandise](#).

Burns' illustrations are fun, whimsical and thought provoking. His unique digital technique results in vibrant and richly detailed pieces that still boast a very hand-made quality.

"I was inspired by the explosion of color and life that comes with the first sign of spring," Burns said. "I wanted to create a piece that showed movement, the awakening of the cherry trees and the connection with the iconic architecture of the Capital."

Burns grew up in Gainesville, Florida and received a BFA in graphic design from the University of Florida. After pursuing an MBA in Supply Chain Management at Michigan State University, he relocated to Atlanta, Georgia where he completed his MFA in Illustration at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Burns is currently an adjunct professor of Illustration at the SCAD campus in Atlanta.



The 2016 poster and merchandise is available online in the Festival's [Gift Shop](#), at the National Cherry Blossom Festival® Merchandise and Information Headquarters at Union Station, The Tidal Basin Welcome Center, various Festival events, and other locations in the metro region. Burns will attend the 2016 Festival and sign posters onsite during the weekend of Saturday, April 9. New this year, Guest Services will donate \$1 to the [Cherry Tree Maintenance Endowment Fund](#) for every poster sold.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2016 Festival, March 20 – April 17, includes three spectacular weeks and four weekends of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information and find us on [Facebook](#) (CherryBlossomFestival), [Twitter](#) (@CherryBlossFest), and [Instagram](#) (@CherryBlossFest).

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