

2024 Judges Notes

Best In Show #58-Pastel

Green Cascade – Margaret Emerson – Photo Judge: Beautiful abstraction, color palette and contrast. Art Judge: Excellent use of pastels, would love to see a whole collection of these. Rich, dynamic and provocative! Suggestion: Reframe with a bigger mat and simple frame and let the art breathe.

Watercolor

1st Place Watercolor #125

Pumpkins On a Persian Rug – Robert Morey – Love the scale and grid. Great placement of each square in relation to the other – ambient feel/mood.

2nd Place Watercolor #68

Lunaria – Tom Gately – Well drawn and executed. Great use of large spaces. Depth is rich.

3rd Place Watercolor #144

Trail Overlook – Deborah Roberts Kirk – Very well done/traditional watercolor.

Honorable Mention #51

Irish Brambleberries – Linda Cunningham – playful and borderline mixed media.

Oil

1st Place Oil #131

Front Street – Deborah Reicker – Nice sense of space and perspective. Harmony in the colors.

2nd Place Oil #156

Fred – Jean Scalise – Contemplative. Harmony in color! Provocative composition.

3rd Place Oil #43

Paine's Creek – Cape Cod – Ron Couture – Very fresh and loose painting – movement. Gold frame too much for painting.

Honorable Mention #146

Surf's Up – Cheryl Rossier – Well crafted.

Pastel

1st Place Pastel #61

Foster Hill – Karen Farrell – Strong composition.

2nd Place Pastel #136

Bearcicles – Sherry Richmond – Strong drawing and dynamic subject – good use of white without looking chalky.

3rd Place Pastel #18

Apple Blossoms – Carole Bentley – good depth in the background. One can feel the atmosphere.

Acrylics

2nd Place Acrylics #126

Earthworks – Robert Morey – Provocative/Rhythm and movement/unique.

3rd Place Acrylics #105

Obsidian Overcast – Robyn Lucier – Rich gray tones with effective proportions of gray to white area. Rich handling of acrylics. Good ratios.

Honorable Mention #115

Now I've Seen a Purple Cow – Nancy McBride – Whimsey, Playful and imaginative.

Honorable Mention #106

Blossom Ballet – Robyn Lucier – The depth and movement in a vertical format creates a nice flow/up and down the picture plane.

Prints & Drawings

2nd Place Prints & Drawings #161

My Old Man – Sid Solomon - Strong lines, minimal and gestural information and good sense of light. One can feel the models breath. Very alive.

3rd Place Prints & Drawings #24

Summer's End – Barbara Blake – Rich (over-layers) of colors and values and shapes. Balanced composition. Depth achieved by working layers – nice to see the many passages thru the print. Diverse edges.

Honorable Mention #181

Emergence III – Fran Warner – I love your brain – beautifully executed. I can feel the emotion of this piece.

Other Media

2nd Place Other Media #83

Symmetry In Motion – Maggie Hart – Ambient background with portals to other universes. Balanced composition and strong contrast.

3rd Place Other Media #101

Untitled – Jesse Knott – This is the strongest of the group. The materials are well integrated. I love the rich glow of the background in relationship to the subject.

Honorable Mention #121

Under the Sea – Theresa Monteith – Playful use of paints/Rhythm and design.

Challenge Category - Monochromatic

1st Place Challenge #5

Old Sturbridge Village – Don Beal – Moody with excellent composition.

2nd Place Challenge #116

Spaghetti on a Plate – Nancy McBride – Fun, Presentation, Abstract – “What is that?” Fun, Furry, Whimsical and Balanced. Great to include matt and frame into the composition.

3rd Place Challenge #4

At the Train Station – Paulette Adams – Detail and Shapes, suggests a story. Strong composition with repeating shapes and ideas.

Honorable Mention #62

Arch of Rhode Island – Wendy Fulginiti – Very interesting composition. Mysterious – highlights curiosity.

Honorable Mention #82

Time Reflections – Maggie Hart – Well executed, simple and uncluttered. Slick/Clean/Well done.

Traditional Photography

1st Place Traditional Photography #64

Rosebud – Wendy Fulginiti– Frame in a frame color contrasts. Good use of entire frame. Makes you wonder about the relationship between inside or outside.

2nd Place Traditional Photography #31

Allegrettonon troppo – Scott Britz-Cunningham – look on the little girls face – What is the Story? She is playing – hand is moving.

3rd Place Traditional Photography #98

Vernal Falls – Richard Kirk –Beautiful. Lots of detail. Lots of structure in the water. Small rainbow, a nice touch.

Honorable Mention Traditional Photography #185

Egyptian Market – Kim Durant – Tells a story of exploration. Shades and Colors. Color Palette.

Honorable Mention Traditional Photography #184

Breakfast – Kim Durant - Action, Expressions.

Digitally Enhance Photography

1st Place Enhanced Photography #73

Dancers – Sue Gomes – Joyful pose. Leading lines. Facial expressions. Works well in Monochrome.

2nd Place Enhanced Photography #8

Conversation Starters – Don Beal – Nice arrangement. Color palette.

3rd Place Enhanced Photography #170

Little Drummer Boy – Paula Stewart – Contrasting looks on the child and adult faces, but are they both just going through the motions? Nice color palette. Some dead spaces.

Honorable Mention Enhanced Photography #1

Foggy Morning – Paulette Adams – Very paintfully. Leading lines. Fog, But Power Lines.

Honorable Mention Enhanced Photography #70

Fruit At Night – Sue Gomes – Creative arrangement. Color contrasts.

MEMORIAL AWARDS

Vernon Graham Memorial Award

Watercolor #80

Blushing Beauty – Michele Guerin – Terrific to see such high drawing skills – the execution of the white is exemplary! And having the composition off center is dynamic.

Margery Cook Memorial Award

Oil #46

Bo – Evelyn Cunningham – delightful, brings joy!.

Robert Aiello Memorial Award

Oil #162

Quality Shopper – Sid Solomon – Red is so provocative – gives the model a sense of confidence/maybe confrontation –not in a negative way – perhaps “I am her and notice me”. Her head being tilted up and looking out – beautifully painted.