

Friends of the
Agawam Public Library

**1st Open Juried
Virtual Photography Show**

Awards

February 2021

The Stats

This first on-line virtual juried photography show received an overwhelming response with 110 entries. There were 21 entries in the Creative category; 33 in Nature; 18 in Photojournalism and 38 in Pictorial.

The judges chose 6 candidates for Best in Show; 8 for Creative; 6 for Nature; 3 for Photojournalism and 8 for Pictorial. Once Best in Show and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners for each category were chosen, the rest of the pictures were considered for the 8 Honorable Mention prizes.

Some Suggestions to Improve your Photo

- The central area of focus should be in sharp focus
- Crop or clone out distracting elements
- Black and White pictures (aside from high key images) should have a good range of tonality from light to dark

Every winning image demonstrated expert editing, masterful use of light, impressive composition, technical excellence, and successful contrast control.

Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk
Selection & Awards Jurors

Honorable Mention Pictorial

Dories Cove Sunset ~ Carmine L. Angeloni



The dispersing clouds against a very blue sky, coupled with the glowing orange sunset, give the scene a mystical feel. The round rocks establish the foreground. Foaming water swirls around them, changing to a lighter color and softer texture as it flows out to sea and toward the infinity of the dark horizon.

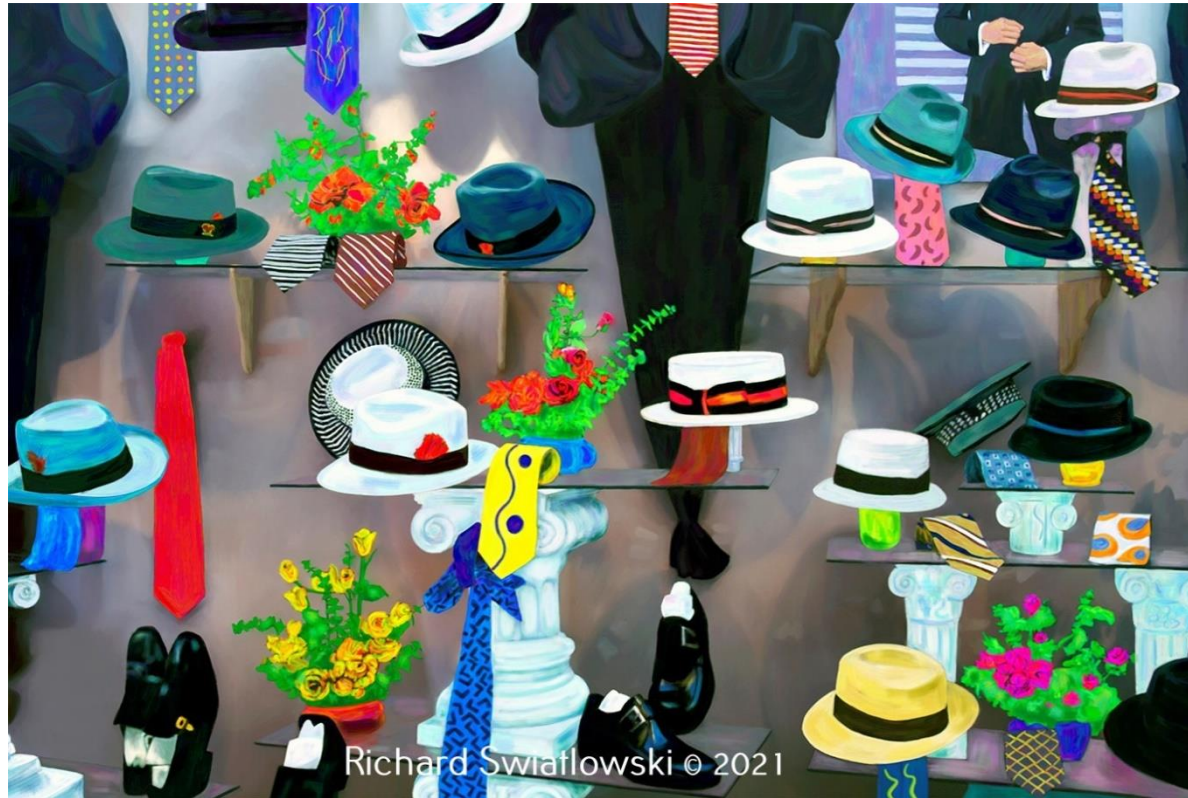
Honorable Mention Pictorial

Misty Portrait ~ Eileen Doherty



A very charming portrait of this noble simian. Every facial feature is sharp. The vignetting provides an enhancement to the already lovely softness to the fur while drawing your attention to her gaze.

Honorable Mention Creative Hat Shop ~ Richard Swiatlowski



The photographer took advantage of the design elements of this store window, which employ ionic Greek columns to support glass shelves. The patterns of the round hats interspersed with shoes, suits, accessories and flowers, coupled with the saturated bright colors, make this a very pleasing and happy picture.

Honorable Mention Nature

Foggy Morning, Longmeadow Marsh ~ Paul Hetzel



Paul Hetzel © 2021

Silence speaks volumes in this misty marsh. Recession into space is expertly handled with gradations of tonality. Foreground elements are darkest, become much fainter in the middle and give only a mere suggestion of shapes in the background. A peaceful and contemplative scene.



Honorable Mention Nature

Emerald Toucanette Costa Rica 2020

Joe Oliverio

A beautiful, wonderfully colored avian with a delightful range of greens throughout the image. You can almost feel the soft texture of the feathers as the bird blends into its tropical habitat.

Honorable Mention Pictorial

Misty Morning at Quabbin ~ Madeline Duval



This is the quintessential late autumn day, foliage still full with rust and muted yellow leaves that glisten. The winding dirt path, wooden fence on one side, curves off into the distance. Where will it take us?



Honorable Mention Creative Abandon Smoke Stack

Ray Harder

The angle of perspective makes this image powerful. The subtle color leads your eye to the main subject and provides a sense of age. The dark and light areas of the image are handled well. The artistic editing and the graffiti enhance the feeling of abandonment of this once useful structure.

Honorable Mention Creative Serene ~ Mary Jeanne Tash



Mary Jeanne Tash © 2021

This is a most unusual “take” on a lily pad. The silver, black and gold tones and employing the concept of black water make for striking impact. The well-defined edges of the lily pad and the water provide dramatic tension.

Photojournalism 3rd Place

On the Rocks ~ Mike Howe



Well composed and edited. The stone jetty leads us right to the main subject, a run aground sea vessel. The ominous sky fits well with the fate of the poor ship.

Photojournalism 2nd Place

Crazy Legs ~ George Skovera



Action! Both the hockey sticks and legs of the fallen player are splayed out. He is nicely out of focus. Our eye is drawn straight to the LHS player framed between his opponent's legs and by the red goal post behind him. He is the center of interest and, as such, is rendered with clarity. What a great capture.

Photojournalism 1st Place

Tradition ~ Tim Carter



The expressions on the faces of the two young girls as they attentively listen to an adult leader depict the enjoyment of playing the violin. The hand motion is not severe but instructional. The woman in the back is amused with the situation. These young people are obviously following in the footsteps of their elders.

Pictorial 3rd Place

Oncoming Storm – Iceland ~ Paul Hetzel



Paul Hetzel © 2021

Both lighting and detail are perfect. The side cropping puts focus on the interesting rock formations behind the still lake dotted with clumps of grass. Nothing is static and the incoming storm clouds, so typical of Iceland weather, will change this scene before the blink of an eye.

Pictorial 2nd Place
White Necked Jacobin - Costa Rica 2020
Joe Oliverio



This stop action image is stupendous. The colors jump right out at you. Extraordinary detail in the hummingbird. The soft-focus background brings out the colors of both bud and bird.

Pictorial 1st Place

Stars, Streaks and Crescent Moon

Rosemary Polletta



The deep blue colors are a dramatic backdrop for the Memorial Bridge. The sliver of moon is a bonus. The four large pillars topped with bright white lights counterbalance the horizontal bridge. Most delightful are the yellow starburst lights throwing beautiful reflections that warm up an otherwise cold blue scene.

Nature 3rd Place

Damselfs Mating ~ Sylvia Pyzocha



The “actual” dainty blue damselfs with translucent wings coupled with the reflection of them creates completed irregular shapes against a softly blurred background. The two on top look like they are “shaking hands!” Kudos to the maker.

Nature 2nd Place

Oriole Mom Feeding Mulberries ~ Joe Oliverio



An impressive capture. Great story that depicts an important aspect in the life of a momma bird. Even though this was taken on a sunny day with shadows, the challenging light was handled expertly with no harsh contrasts. The main subjects are tack sharp.

Nature 1st Place

Preening in Cattail Blind ~ Linda Kozloski



The sharp crop and soft surrounding mist give us an intimate peek at this beautiful heron. The sinuous curves of the wing feathers and long neck, beak tucked in, are reminiscent of 19th century Japanese prints. Every feature is perfectly detailed and the variation of blues are beautiful. The bright yellow eye and bit of orange in the beak add another dimension of color.



Creative 3rd Place

Tossing the Salad

Eileen Doherty

A whimsical portrayal of salad ingredients along with the action of “tossing” them. Individual pieces of veggies are perfectly placed in a lovely “S” curve. The result of the maker’s concept was thoroughly entertaining and impressive.

Creative 2nd Place

Dried Flowers
are Beautiful

Eileen Donelan



This is an exquisite image, simple but masterfully executed. The choice of the background colors successfully compliment the colors of the dried flowers.

Creative 1st Place

The Fly By ~ Sylvia Pyzocha



The elongated horizontal format is perfect for this bird's outstretched wings. Counterbalancing those wings is the strong diagonal thrust from the tail feathers in the lower left to the creature's face, eyes staring unabashedly at the viewer. All features of the bird are in sharp focus and the wide variation from lights to darks within the gentle painterly effect adds to the drama.

Best in Show Photojournalism

Stretching for Every Inch ~ John McGarry



The intensity is palpable. The athlete's concentration and determination are conveyed in his facial expression, the pursed lips in particular. The focus on his dramatic posture is sharp as he slides, arms outstretched, kicking up particles of the sand that fly toward him and out to the sides from sheer force. Well done!