Friends of the Agawam Public Library

1st Open Juried Virtual Art Show Awards

November 2021
Comments from the Judges

It was a joy to visit each one of these pieces, and we were quite impressed with the diversity and creativity of the work. Working together we both immediately chose the Best in Show painting, as it stood out among the body of work as being extremely accomplished. Thank you for the opportunity to judge this wonderful show.

Selection & Awards Jurors

Elizabeth Rhoades and Shauna Shane
Hunting the Rails ~ Evelyn Susie Slater

This painting is well balanced, well painted, with an interesting subject executed with a limited pallet.
The flowers in this watercolor are beautifully rendered.
Honorable Mention
Acrylics

Edgartown Winter

Phyllis Santanella

This painting reveals an understanding of cold though effective acrylic painting technique. One almost feels the frost in the atmosphere.
This piece draws one into the scene so that I imagined beginning this walk in the woods myself. It is effective in its sense of distance and complimentary color.
The snow is rendered with excellent and effective light and shadow; this painting brings one right to the feeling described in the title.
This is a symphony of pen and ink technique, with detail and subject providing dramatic tension.
Honorable Mention - Pastels
Saltwater Therapy ~ Meg Bandarra

A painting that captures the movement and transparency of a wave effectively.
Honorable Mention – Acrylics
Race Point Lighthouse ~ Susan Superson

This painting, simple at first glance, is quite intriguing in its use of color harmony, establishing a quiet, peaceful, emotion that draws the viewer into a familiar, recognizable, pleasing motif.
Honorable Mention – Other Media – Pen & Ink
Matthew 7. 13-14 ~ Roger A. Duffy

The use of perspective makes this image powerful. This piece illustrates a mastery of value, texture and composition.
Honorable Mention
Acrylics

Monet’s Home, Giverny Green Doors

Michele LaPalme

Intense saturated color create a sense of wonder and curiosity.
Perspective, color and contrast join forces to create a dramatic statement in this acrylic painting.
2nd Place Acrylics
Pink on Pink ~ Susan Superson

A powerful use of color, texture and mood is evident in this painting. Beyond most sunset paintings, this combines beauty with tension.
1st Place Acrylics

The Caperton’s

Marie-Helene G. Gates

This is one of those paintings that immediately elicit a reaction – it immediately made me smile. The balance of the four images in the grid is quite satisfying. It is whimsical, has a great color palette, and the dogs are especially well rendered.
3rd Place Oils
Landfill Near Hadley Dike ~ Matthew Mattingly

A pleasing, fresh painting with effective texture and sense of place.
This is a wonderful image, illustrating a time and place and soft atmosphere that will bring the viewer back to a place similar to this one.
The draftsmanship and composition establish an effective story and a successful painting.
3rd Place Watercolors
Walk Thru the Bluebells ~ Susan Racine

A painting with a delightful whimsy and fresh handling of the medium.
A somewhat emotional piece that conveys an historic time by using a sensitively painted interior to portray an array of sentiments.
An especially well executed watercolor. The application is clean, and the subject matter is very beautifully rendered.
3rd Place
Other Media
Pencil

October Baby

Hope Walsh

A whimsical portrayal using effective pencil technique. Excellent value range and the dog is wonderfully done.
2nd Place
Other Media
Colored Pencil
Common Yellowthroat
Tom Raymo

This is an exquisite image, simple but masterfully executed.
A masterful image of a beautiful tree. Color, atmosphere, and an understanding of the impact possible with correct value. Very well done.
3rd Place Pastels

Farm Bureau Member

Mary Montague

A painting with a strong juxtaposition of the foliage against a weathered barn siding. The lighting makes the outdoor scene believable in its use of shading and shadows.
A painting with terrific perspective and the handling of the reflected light on the barn roof is superb. The composition brings you right into deep space. Nice use of textured paper also.
1st Place Pastels

Isolation in a Corner

Sanchitha Vishwanath

This painting is a very strong piece with bold contrasts and a powerful yellow blue color scheme. The composition is very well balanced and directs the eye through the piece. The media is very well handled especially for a pastel. The light coming in on the right hand bottom corner is a great lead-in to the dark vase on the opposite side.
This painting has a great composition. The eye moves to the turtle with the most shine. There is a great handling of edges, and wonderful color subtlety within a limited palette.