

Friends of the
Agawam Public Library

**2nd Open Juried
Virtual Photography Show**

Awards

March 2022

About the Show

There were 120 entries

Creative: 23

Nature: 25

Photojournalism: 20

Pictorial: 52

The creative category contained nature, still life, landscape, flora, design and imaginative works. The judges were pleased to see the representation of 5 black and whites, a strong showing. Nature contained 12 bird images and 9 landscapes with a few other genres. Aside from one nightscape all the photojournalism entries involved people. The pictorial category encompassed all genres and had no restrictions, probably the reason it had at least double the amount of images as the other categories and more Honorable Mentions.

After reviewing all images separately, the judges met first to review them together and see what each of them had put aside as potential candidates. Aside from a few in each category they were in agreement. For the first pass they had approximately 10 to 13 images for each category. It was quite difficult to whittle them down to three. Before the final decision, Best in Show was chosen. Those who did not make the final three in each category were considered for Honorable Mentions.

There was stiff competition this year which made the judges' job quite difficult. They appreciated the fine quality of many of the images representing a wide variety of subjects and methods of processing.

Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk
Selection & Awards Jurors

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library
would like to
express their gratitude to
Jim Gillen
for his technical help
with resizing of the photos.

Honorable Mention Photojournalism

High School Wrestling - Richard Harper



Fierce competition has been frozen at an intense moment. The clenched expression of the guy in green and yellow says it all. Only part of his opponent's face is visible, yet we see enough to know that although he is on top, he realizes that he's in trouble. The flailing limbs have been captured in patterns that they appear to have been choreographed. The three visible hands are just as expressive.

Honorable Mention Pictorial

Light My Fire - Tim Carter



Superb closeup of a daring lady practicing her circus craft. An exciting scene with well positioned lighting focused on the center of interest – her face with the flame on her tongue.

Honorable Mention Nature

Oystercatcher - Rachel Bellenoit



That prominent orange beak grabs our attention. Fitting tightly within the vertical stricture, the bird appears monumental. It looks at the view with no compunction. Negative space on the right side is effective with a nicely blurred background in pleasing colors.

Honorable Mention Pictorial

Mates for Life - Richard Harper



The background texture of this charming winter scene has the effect of a painting. The blurred lovely pastel colors allow the bright birds to shine. All the feathers are in sharp (not over-sharpened) detail. The interaction between the protagonists adds a nice storytelling touch.



Honorable Mention Pictorial

Watkins Glen
Joe Kruzel

The lighting “makes” this image. The autumn leaves in the forest and on the rocks give depth to the image. The soft water of the falls imbues a dreamy quality. They converge to empty into the same pool, creating a subliminal feeling of unity.

Honorable Mention Pictorial

White Sands - Joe Kruzel



The pastel colors of the sky contrasted with the snow white, undulating dunes and textured sand have created an exquisite scene.

Honorable Mention Nature

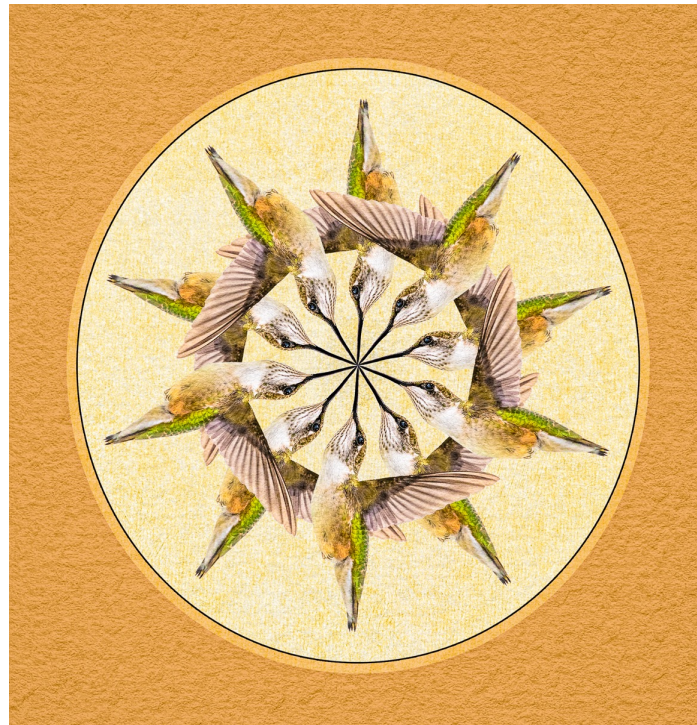
Snowy Over the Marsh - Tom Stratton



Bird-in-flight photos are a challenge to capture. The eye, head, body, and front wing are all tack sharp. The yellow eye is an eye-catcher. The background is pleasingly out of focus with the sandy yellow area in the wing echoed in the marsh grass.

Honorable Mention Creative

Charm of Hummingbirds - Linda Kozloski



The photographer chose a unique subject from which to create a mandala. The yellow gold color in the bird's underside is nicely shown elsewhere in varying shades. The textures and framing are very well chosen and enhance the overall effect.



Photojournalism

3rd Place

The Reader

Jill Toler

This is an endearing image and a fine example of photojournalism. The studious boy is focusing intensely on his large tome. He is comfortably ensconced on a ledge, feet supported on a large pipe. The maker has provided a lot of background detail—more pipes, debris strewn on the ground, paint markings on the wall and the front part of a bicycle with a yellow box in the basket that does not detract from the focus.



Photojournalism

2nd Place

Solitude at the Louvre

Susan Racine

Far from the madding crowd, this maker discovered an empty sunbathed arched corridor save for one woman dressed in white, as pristine as the setting in which she stands. Architectural perspective is successful. Careful attention has been given to composition, detail and the rendition of light, which emanates an ambience of clarity, serenity and solitude. This is a peaceful and thought-provoking image.

Photojournalism 1st Place

The Chase is On - Kevin Fay



This is a dynamic action shot. The close crop and low vantage point enhance the impact. This pair are truly partners as they are laser focused on the next obstacle challenge.



Pictorial 3rd Place

Into the Fog

Jim Gillen

The vertical format with close crop accentuates the position of the boat pointing diagonally out to sea. The smaller boats at each side provide scale and mark the horizon line before the fog obliterates further view. The maker has captured the gentle ripples of the calm sea. Tonal range is terrific, with darker tones focused on the boat and its shadow.

Pictorial 2nd Place

Wrapped in Elegance - Rosemary Polletta



Reaction to this beautiful, up-close flamingo set against a black background is certainly *wow*. The image perfectly fits the pictorial category. The sinuous neck ending with the beak tucked demurely into the feathers creates a composition of graceful curves. The gradation of color is excellent as is the detail in each and every feather.



Pictorial 1st Place

Dogwood in the Rain

Rosemary Polletta

We are privy to a small and fascinating section of a garden of earthly delights, crafted out of many shades of green with just enough yellow touches to brighten the picture. One's eye is drawn to the yellow leaf placed a bit to the left and lower than center. Every drop of water on every leaf is in sharp focus and lighting is handled to perfection.



Nature 3rd Place

Bug Off
Jim Gillen

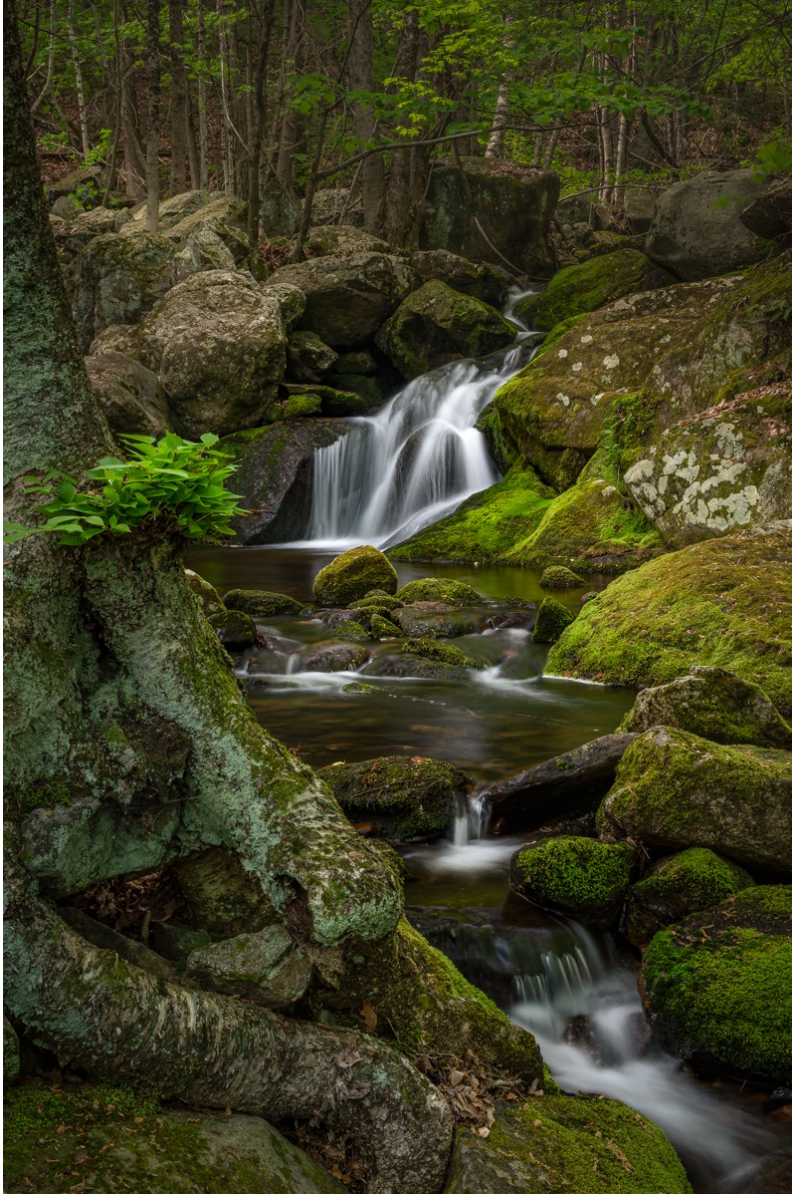
A delightful story is presented here. Our national bird's open beak shows its annoyance with the pesky crow. The image is tack sharp with an uncomplicated sky that does not detract from the two subjects. The inclusion of the small branch where the crow will land is a real plus.

Nature 2nd Place

All Hail the Queen - Kevin Fay



Anthropomorphic stance and regal demeanor make this photo impactful. The little razor billed auks seem to defer to the larger gannet who lifts its head with an air of superiority.



Nature 1st Place

Goldmine Brook

Larry Sanchez

A gentle curve of the soft, wispy water leads the eye from the top third to the bottom of the image. The greens are rich with just enough light to see detail on the boulders and in the forest. Color, composition, detail, excellent lighting, and tack sharp focus make this a stunning waterfall image.

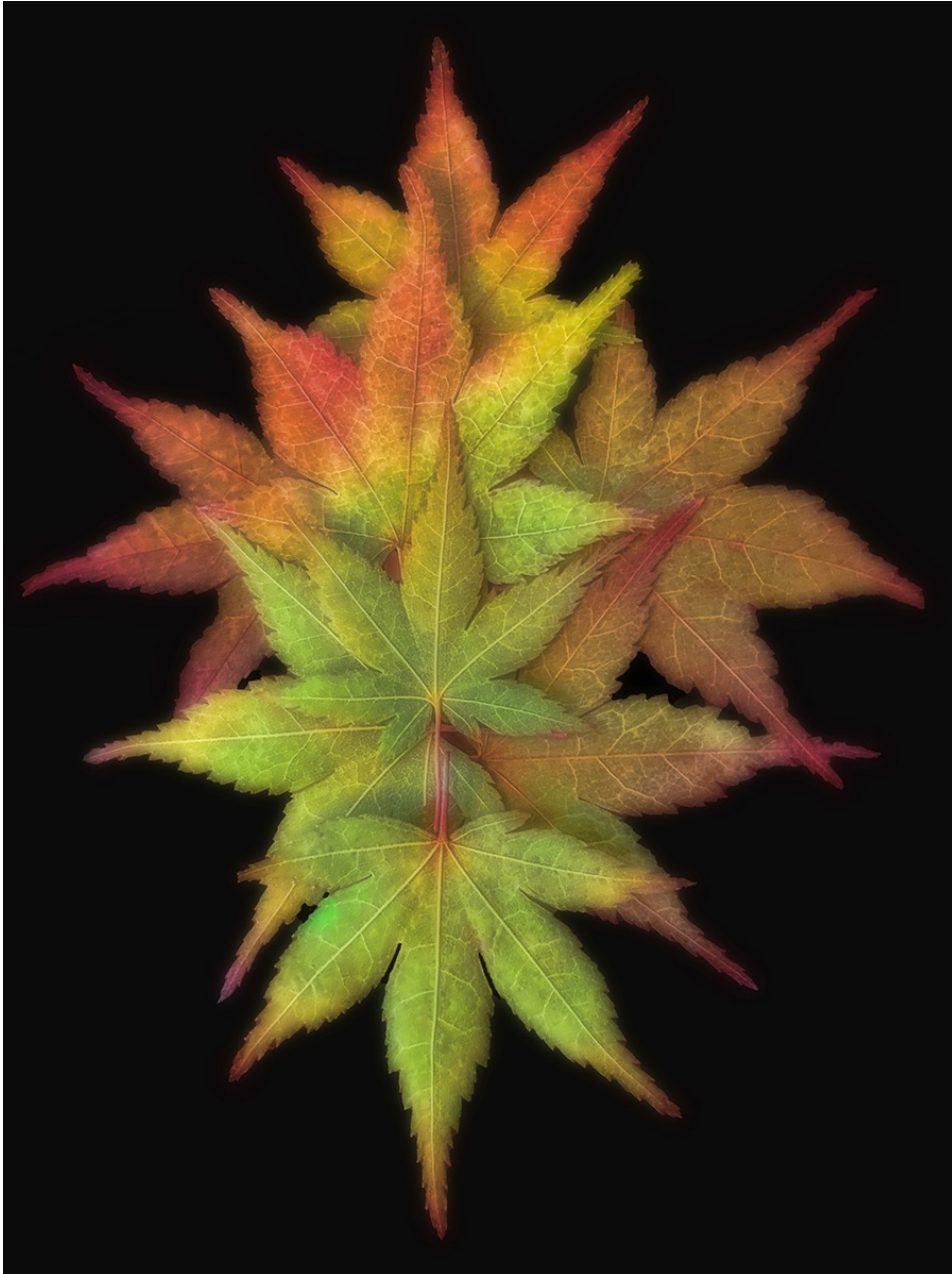


Creative 3rd Place

Mighty Skogafoss

John McGarry

This image calls to mind the 19th century Romantic artistic term of “the sublime” in nature. A tiny viewer stands before this awesome force of nature contemplating the sheer drop of the falls, which is heightened by the vertical format. The soft effect of the slow shutter speed on the water is pleasing and by no means mitigates the powerful impact.



Creative 2nd Place

Japanese Maple Leaves Rachel Bellenoit

This image exhibits a soft interplay of rusts, greens and yellows. Careful placement of the layered leaves, tips pointing in all directions, creates depth and dynamism. Contrast against the black background augments the picture's ethereality.

Creative 1st Place

Two Pears - Rosemary Polletta



The close-up view of the pears gives a feeling of intimacy between the viewer and the subject. The lighting is exquisite and reminiscent of a Dutch Golden Age still life. The hint of the pears' reflection adds to this highly successful composition.

Best in Show Pictorial

Pond Flower - Joyce Doty



Powerful impact of this image stems from its simplicity, uniqueness and the attraction of the bright yellow. The artistic presentation and use of subdued colors for the water ripples sets off the in-focus lotus bud. Its mirror image reflection adds a captivating dimension. Well done!