

Friends of the
Agawam Public Library

**3rd Open Juried
Virtual Photography Show**

Awards

March 2023

About the Show

Eileen and I had a wide ranging and engaging gallery of images to select this years 21 award winning images. There were 118 entries – 21 Creative, 21 Nature, 22 Photojournalism, and 54 Pictorial. We believe the 21 photographs chosen best exemplify the photographic excellence of this years submissions.

An engaging gallery of photographic images for this years Agawam Open Juried Photography Exhibit
Thanks for the opportunity.

Selection & Awards Jurors

Eileen Donelan and Gene Suponski

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.

If you are interested in purchasing
the print of a photo in the show,
please contact

Bob Kadis

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Honorable Mention Photojournalism

Living on Cambodian Floating House – Eric Wolfe



Capturing the vibrancy of a contemporary culture in a foreign land, the photographer has vividly illustrated the story of everyday life of the Cambodian people who live and work the waterways of their country. The playfulness of the children is universal as is the work of this father to provide for his family. The vibrancy of color, sharpness, and angle of view contribute to this engaging slice of life.

Honorable Mention Pictorial

Wings At Rest – Mark Kula



The composition of this image is well designed with the butterfly being the primary center of interest. The vibrancy of the red flower enhances the warm colors of the butterfly's wings contrasting with the cool greens of the out-of-focus background. The angle of the flower from lower left adds an interesting dynamic to the overall image. The creative use of depth of field renders the detail of the butterfly's eye and closest wing with excellent sharpness.

Honorable Mention Creative Keeper Of The Light – Carol Dunn



This striking composite is a complex image. Although the lighthouse and the building stand out as the main subjects on a canvas, they sit surrounded by many layers of color and texture applied in such a way to still reveal hints and suggestions of other structures and landscape. The darks and the lights are placed appropriately to highlight the lighthouse and light the interior of the building and the overall choice of colors gives impact to the image.

Honorable Mention Nature

Mother Nature's Jewelry – Vern Wells



This small scene of a cascade of water shows us two forms that water can take in winter. The tumbling of the water with just enough detail spills into a silky pool of foam. It is framed by ice formations that often occur around waterfalls in this time of year. The blue tint also adds the feeling of coldness.



Honorable Mention Photojournalism

I'll Write You A Poem Barbara Krawczyk

The image is composed in the genre of black and white street photography. The photographer has intuitively captured this poet ensconced in his literary work undaunted by the activity in the street. The subject anchors this image well, and the tonalities of the black and white processing perfectly set the tone of this street scene. The photographer has created a story that begins with a question, “What literary masterpiece is being composed here?”

Honorable Mention Pictorial

Proud Family – Jim Gillen



Depicting their colorful Latin American heritage, the photographer frames the family within the context of their beautiful, flowering surroundings. The vibrancy of the flower fields complements the saturated colors of the young woman's dress. The photographer intuitively places her off center and frames her well with the three men donning their traditional sombreros. Edge to edge sharpness of the four subjects set against a soft-focus backdrop is well achieved.

Honorable Mention Nature

Great White Egret – Mike Howe



The egret was captured in flight where it has in full display and sharp detail its beautiful wingspan captured against a complementary background of blue sky. Caught carrying a tree branch we are shown that it is the breeding season when nestbuilding leads to the start of the creation of new life.

Honorable Mention Creative Junked – Albert Glazier



With this image, the maker has taken the front of a rusted truck left for junk and created a compelling abstract image. The colors are bold and saturated and make a statement. The lone circular headlight socket commands attention and leaves one imagining that it's the eye of the truck gazing out at the world.



Photojournalism

3rd Place

Game Face - Jim Gillen

In this example of sports photojournalism the photographer has perfectly captured the raw competitiveness of rugby. The square format frames the five players well, and a high shutter speed captively freezes the action of the two lead players from the opposing teams with feet airborne. The offensive player, with ball in hand, is looking into the frame with his sights set on the goal line. The facial expressions and physicality of the players are perfectly lit. The engaging angle by which this action is photographed places the viewer squarely within the field of play.

Photojournalism 2nd Place Ahead By A Foot – John McGarry



Sports action photojournalism at its most captivating. This all-engaging composition creates an angular tension complementing the symmetry of the hurdles. Perfect depth of field and exposure separates the three athletes from the fans beyond. The photographer perfectly captures the moment when the leader sets his sights on both the finish line and photographer's lens simultaneously.

Photojournalism 1st Place

Right To Assemble - Tim Carter



With this image, the photographer has engaged their passion to capture a news worthy moment derived from our nation's current events which is the essence of photojournalism. In this image, the young woman, center, emphatically communicates her position on the issue, and the photographer has balanced the frame very well with her supporting cast of demonstrators.



Pictorial 3rd Place Red Rock Geometry Carmine L Angeloni

A dramatic organic image with extraordinary depth of field photographed with an engaging angle of view that draws the viewer into the canyon scene. Contrasting density of warm colors and textures is perfectly complemented by the cool blue sky. The triangular formation of the canyon walls adds an element of tension to the perspective of this desert composition.

Pictorial 2nd Place

Edgy - Rosemary Polletta



Line, shape, and form set in a square format with an angle of view that places the flower centered within the frame. Subtle black and white tonalities ranging from the black background to the bright rim lighting of the petals, the photographer has created a dramatic image with excellent depth and texture.

Pictorial 1st Place

Storm At Cape Neddick – Kevin Fay



A well composed photograph of a familiar southern Maine seascape. The pounding surf is perfectly framed by the rugged foreground granite ledge and the row of classic Maine cottages positioned high above standing resolute against the surge. The whole scene is complemented by the ethereally colorful storm sky. The photographer captures a primary center of interest being the crashing surf and a secondary point of interest being the fisherman observing his favorite environment. The image successfully draws the viewer around and into the scene wonderfully.



Nature 3rd Place Goldfinch Likes Thistle Barbara Krawczyk

This image has two subjects, the goldfinch, and the thistle. Although the goldfinch is the smaller of the two in the composition its striking yellow color makes it stand out as the center of interest. The maker carefully composed this image to include enough of the plant for identification and to give it emphasis as an important food source. It is a beautiful capture of a goldfinch in its environment.

Nature 2nd Place

Home Defense – Karen Lessard



By taking the perspective of ground level, emphasis in this composition was placed on the formidable claw of this crab. Thus, the maker not only shows this crustacean in its habitat but also how it was given the claw as a weapon of defense, an exceptional nature story.



Nature 1st Place Successful Fishing Trip John McGarry

This puffin portrait was taken during perfect lighting conditions. It enables us to see exquisite detail and tonal range in the breast feathers. The bird is sharply focused and perfectly placed in the composition against a complementary neutral background. Catching the puffin with its beak full of fish adds an important story telling detail as it gives us a glimpse into the life of this bird creating an instructive component to this outstanding nature image.

Creative 3rd Place

Phragmite Phantasy – Rachel Bellenoit



This image is an outstanding example of the tasteful combination of a texture with an image to make a composite. The warm colors of the texture complement the arrangement of the brown color of the reeds. The heavier yellow orange colors against the faded vertical lines of the reeds on the very bottom create a foreground. The plumes of the reeds are left distinct enough to mark a middle ground and the illusion of a sky was created by the change in the texture at the top. A light vignette around the top and side are complementary. The image has the feel of being created with pastels.

Creative 2nd Place

Can't Fix Time – Dave Roback



This image is very well balanced. Each piece of this disassembled clock has its place of importance in the composition. The eye is kept within the well filled frame as it wanders around looking at the exquisite detail and sharpness of each piece surrounding the anchor of the clock face. The image has no technical flaws in its making. The composition and subject matter combine to give this image strong impact and a high level of interest.

Creative 1st Place

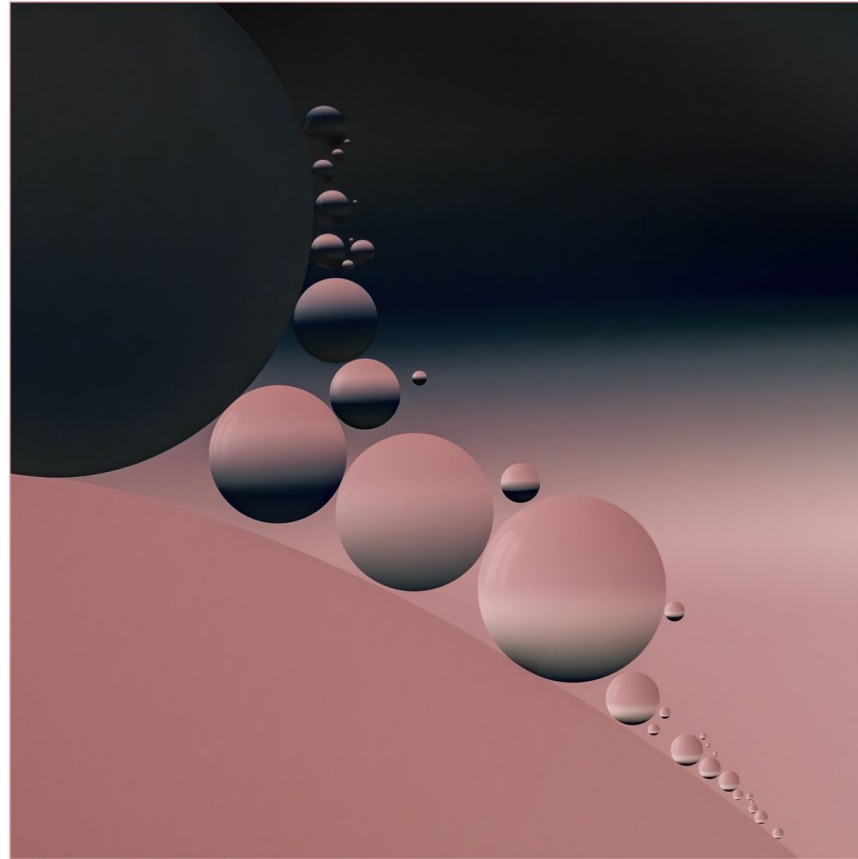
Walnut Grove in Winter – Rachel Bellenoit



One stately walnut tree stands center stage in this symmetrically balanced image. Like the captain and his troops standing at complete attention in military formation the captain commands the viewer's attention and holds it. The strength of this creation lies in the use of line. There is the line up the center, the lines formed by the troops and the strong triangular lines leading the eye into the image and giving it depth. The processing of this image is excellent. The contrast between the darks and the lights clearly separates the subjects from the background and the subtle glow that was applied creates the somber mood of a cold, gray winter day.

Best in Show Creative

Otherworldly – Karen Lessard



This abstract image is based on the clever use of shapes, lines, and curves to evoke a sense of mystery. A line of spheres extends from the bottom right following along a diagonal line across the top of a curve to arrive at the three largest, the center of interest, before continuing course up the side of another semicircular body. The use of 2 main colors is impactful. The mauve and gray give the spheres shape and weight and a sense that they are floating in the space. The touch of blue gray adds depth and a suggestion of a horizon. Are these planets, moons, or other worlds in a strange and interesting galaxy? The viewer is coaxed to linger awhile at this otherworldly creation and come up with his own interpretation.