Friends of the
Agawam Public Library

4th Open Judged
Virtual Photography Show

Awards & Comments

March 2024
About the Show

There were 124 entries
Creative: 24
Pictorial: 43
Photojournalism: 22
Nature: 35

*All images are Copyrighted.*

*Photos are for sale unless otherwise noted.*
Prices are listed in the Show Catalog.
If interested in purchasing the print of a photo in the show please contact

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Note from the Judges

There were an exceptional amount of great images in this show. Many stood out on their own while others competed for top awards. The range of entries made judging a difficult task, which was a good thing. It made us look at the images over and over before making a final decision. The Best of Show came down to two images which could have been settled with a flip of a coin. It was not. Both stood out with the winner chosen after long decisions.

Dave Roback and Tim Donelan
Award Judges
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

Tim Carter – NextGen Tap Dancer
An interesting capture many times creates emotion. There are many happy emotions from the drummer, musicians and the children performing for the audience. The dancer caught in mid air makes this special. A wonderful story telling image from a festival.
Politicians love to have their pictures taken at events. This was a simple and clean photo that is not a setup or forced in any way. A nice moment.
Honorable Mention Nature
Kimberly Leupoo - Reflection of a Feast
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Kimberly Leupo - Reflection of a Feast

This is not one of the prettiest nature images you will see but maybe one of the most interesting. The bears are not staring at the photographer but tending to the task at hand. Although we are not sure of the buffet subject it does add to the overall image.
Honorable Mention Pictorial

Joan F. Byington

Dahlia
By very effectively using a soft-focus technique the maker steers all the attention to the focused heart of this flower where many petals sit ready to unfurl. One can begin to imagine seeing the petals slowly opening and stretching out past the edges of the frame. Hence there is a sense of motion being conveyed. Well done.
Honorable
Mention Nature
Joe Kruzeln
Bashful
Honorable Mention  
Nature

Joe Kruzels

Bashful

This image creates a very subtle form of emotion. The deer doesn’t seem to be scared but in its own way curious of the maker, as the maker is curious about the deer. The tones are well handled and the detail is excellent.
Honorable Mention
Pictorial

Kimberly Leupo

Light and Shadow in Abu Dhabi
Honorable Mention
Pictorial

Kimberly Leupo

Light and Shadow in
Abu Dhabi

Framed beautifully, this image took some skill to keep all the highlights and shadows in check. There is plenty of depth and interesting layers from front to back.
Honorable Mention Creative
Carmine Angeloni – Main Beach Waves
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A surprisingly simple shot of the ocean and sky. The blurred effect along with the variety of soft colors work together to create a very compelling and peaceful image. Nice concept and good execution by the maker.
Honorable Mention Creative
Karin L. Lessard – The World Within
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Karin L. Lessard – The World Within

When an image pops off the screen and makes one think, it is worthy of an award. The tones are handled perfectly and the sharpness and detail of the subject against the soft background works beautifully.
3rd Place Photojournalism
Karin L. Lessard – Home Run Celebration
Many times the best action images are captured after the play has taken place. This is one of them. There are pleasing results all over this image. From the dugout to the stands. It is a walk-off winner.
2nd Place Photojournalism
John McGarry – Hard to Bring Down
The photographer has chosen to zoom in and get a closeup shot of a struggle for possession of a rugby ball during a game. The image successfully shows us the level of concentration and focus necessary to engage in this intensely physical sport. The looks of determination on the faces of both the ball carrier and the tackler are clear and sharp. The timing of the shot was very good.
1st Place Photojournalism
Amy S. Dane – Faith
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Amy S. Dane - Faith

This image conveys a wonderful feeling and a compelling image of faith. It was a very simple setting, a kneeler in front of three statues in a room in a place that cannot be identified. But by waiting for a man to enter the scene and kneel before these statues the photographer was able to make an image that speaks of religious faith. The blue lights at the top help add to the spiritual feeling of the image. Although all the technical aspects for creating a good image were handled well, it’s the moment that was captured that is most important.
3rd Place Pictorial
Rosemary Polletta – A Child’s Curiosity
What a nice image of childhood. The maker captured a small child at the perfect moment as she steps into the doorway. Her curiosity compelled her to enter. The barn and the wood of the barn and the forest behind look very good. The yellow coat stands out and makes this image great and delightful. Good work by the maker.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Place Pictorial
Joe Kruzelo – Valley View Sunrise
When it comes to landscapes, it does not get much better than this. The image is sharp from front to back with the shadow tones being exceptional in the water and rock formations. Great tonal range.
Keeping it simple was the over riding theme of this image. Clean and crisp, this jumped right off the screen.
3rd Place Nature
Linda Kozloski – Shaking Out the Raindrops
This is an incredibly sharp image with plenty of detail in the bird’s features including the eye and feathers. The background, although it could not be altered, is soft enough not to take away from the subject. Well done capturing the shake.
2nd Place Nature
Stephen Ostroskey – Hawk Squabble
What a perfectly time capture of these two hawks facing off. Although we don't know what the squabble is about it draws our attention. Caught with their wings and beaks wide open the hawks are trying to establish domination. The fighting stances creates a feeling of tension. The hawks are perfectly placed against a muted background with no competing distractions.
1st Place Nature
John McGarry - Puffin Gathering Nesting Material
A very good capture of a puffin. This closeup shows us the details of the puffin’s face; especially clear are the eyes and the beak. The materials in the mouth add to good story. Very good composition with excellent handing of the colors. Fine work by the maker.
3rd Place Creative
Amy S. Dane - Fabric Folds
A unique composition and arrangement by the maker. Without the title the viewer would have no idea what the subject really is. The arrangement and the various colors create a great pattern and an interesting and pleasing image. Good creative work by the maker.
2nd Place Creative
Joe Kruzels - Wonder Fall Mushroom
What a great capture by the maker. The composition is well thought out with the mushroom and the leaf in perfect balance. The lighting was very creative, especially under the mushroom. The blurred background makes the mushroom stand out. Congratulations to the maker.
1st Place
Creative
Jim Gillen
Messina
Gallerina
It pays to look up. This striking image with all its patterns, stood out among the crowd. The stark lines make this an easy choice for a black and white conversion.
Best in Show
Nature
Richard Harper
Female Mallard Landing
Female Mallard Landing

This is an outstanding capture of a Mallard in flight. Not easy to achieve. This took a lot of patience and technical ability. The maker framed the subject with the wings surrounding the head and body. Excellent exposure and stop action with no blur. Dave Roback

This image stands out. It has the WOW factor. Capturing this Mallard in this position involved both good luck and excellent technical skills. The position of the wings really makes this shot unique. The blurred background and placement of the bird slightly off center were good artistic choices. Well done. Tim Donelan