



## **JUROR'S STATEMENT**

When a juror has to cut the number of painting submissions nearly in half as was the case in this show, although it's a very difficult task the end result is always an exceptional body of work.

One thing that stood out to me in this selection was the skillful and strategic use of color in many of the paintings. Every exhibit involves creative use of color, but this particular grouping excelled in this respect. Beyond the beautiful multi-colored pieces, there is a knowledge displayed in the more subtle and limited chromatic paintings that shows a solid understanding of color theory and how colors interplay.

Another thing that stood out was the broad expression of realism - realism in so many varieties of form. Sometimes subject matter in exhibits can become repetitious, but I felt this body of work continued to offer fresh perspective and a wonderful variety of artistic flavor.

### **1st Place "Bernard" by John Hassler, DWS**

Not only was this painting striking because of the artistic expression of the figure and the expert use of values, it's also the artist's sensitive touch in conveying the beautiful skin tones. The draftsmanship is excellent and the design perfect, placing the figure just off center giving balance to the lines of composition.

### **2nd Place "Might Be Fishing" by Susan Gray**

It's no easy task to successfully convey a semi-abstract painting with heavy texture throughout, but this artist did it. The developed spots of realism are subtle enough to work with the rest of the piece, yet obvious enough to guide the eye. The artist's placement of color is spot-on and cohesive. Viewers should be sure to take a close look at this piece in order to appreciate the wonderful flow of the pigment.

### **3rd Place "Ferry Ride by" Christine Heyse, DWS**

A quintessential watercolor painting expertly painted. The composition leads the eye perfectly, dark values are placed sensitively, and the warm tones are tastefully set in the upper right section of the painting where the lines of the painting guide the eye. Also of note are the lovely, confidently painted reflection of the chairs.

## **Merit Awards**

### **“Damsel in Distress” by Anna Bellenger**

The first thing that jumps out at you with this painting is the wonderful placement of values. The composition leads your eye successfully through the painting. The subject is fresh, the colors subtle, and the draftsmanship excellent. The artist also mastered the illusion of depth.

### **“Tulip Festival” by Ruth Ann Kaufman**

What a beautiful rendition of a floral painting. What I love most about this piece is the pleasing composition and transition into abstraction. The composition wouldn't have worked so perfectly had the artist not included the small group of bent tulips in the upper right section - perfectly placed to prevent the scene from being too predictable. The piece exhibits an excellent sense of color and a balance of soft and bold.

### **“Warrior Strong” by Bonnie Quesenberry**

I try to spend the same amount of time with every painting so that smaller gems like this one don't get overlooked. The lovely transitions between the various earthy tones in the loosely painted background set the mood perfectly for the well-drafted and confidently painted figure at the focal point. The color selection perfectly supports the ancient, culturally significant subject matter.

### **“Squall” by Gail Zinar, DWS**

Although sea paintings are not uncommon, the specific scene conveyed in this piece is. The focal point is located pleasingly in the bottom third of the painting where the boldest use of darks are placed. The painting is symmetrically balanced but includes delicate shape and color variation. The artist also displays a wonderful knowledge of the medium in the conveyance and brushwork throughout the sky.

Jill Poyerd, NWS