

Juror Holly Pultz's Comments

Juror's Statement What an honor and privilege it's been to judge the Annual North Hills Art Center 2020 Members' Exhibition for awards. The overall caliber of work is exceptional and I wish to thank each artist for having the courage and fortitude to create a work of art and offer it up to be judged.

This process of judging art is subjective. I tried to look beyond my own biases and look for technical skill, conceptual execution, emotional impact and creativity.

Thank you to Kim Freithaler, Executive Director of the NHAC, and the Board for entrusting me with this awesome responsibility.

AWARDS

Best of Show-"Brightly Whispered"- The exquisite skill and creative use of color, shape and whimsy in the form of collage to tell the story of "US" who grapple with the here and now of 2020 blew me away! And in such a large format!

2D-1st-"Pensive" - The soft, heartfelt handling of color and value in the painting of the figure and surrounding background beautifully conveys a soulful image with which most can identify. The controlled, yet painterly, style helps to tell "the story" of the pensive young woman.

2D-2nd-"Monsoon"- The drama of a cloudburst across an expansive Western landscape is skillfully captured in this painting. The creative use of the medium (not without risk) delivers an emotional impact!

3D-1st - "Blooms Teapot with 4 Cups"- These ceramic pieces exhibit extraordinary command of the medium, both technically and artfully. The incised floral surface designs contrast beautifully with the smooth inner surfaces of the cups. The woven handle offers a complimentary texture to the set.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

"Tall Ships 1-Erie" - A striking black and white composition that uses diagonal lines and a softening of the focus and contrast in the foreground to lead the eye to the human activity that tells the story!

"Your Queen is in Jeopardy" - One doesn't need to know how to play chess to appreciate the exquisite and creative use of beading, stenciling and assembling of objects to create a sculpture that conveys mystery, beauty and awe!

"Catch of the Day" - This painting has a surreal quality as if time is standing still, with its use of a quiet palette of high-key yellow and soft blue. The people appear to be on a spot-lit stage posing to remind us of traditions past. The command of the medium is exceptional."

"Fall Splendor" - What fun it is to imagine a walk in these woods!! The inventive use of fiber to create a "natural habitat" for all living creatures big and small is a joy to behold. The little felted skunk is the "star of the show"!

"Under Water" - This ceramic sculpture seems to embody the "essence of elephant" a deftly, straight forward manipulation of the clay that stands solid in its description of an elephant without apology!