



Dawna Hamm Walsh, Ph.D.

Juror's Comments for RCAS 2020 Online Membership Show

"It has been an honor to adjudicate your membership show. The art talent within your group is stellar which presented challenges to my judging. You have every reason to be proud of this group! If your work placed, congratulations to you for your excellent entry. There were many deserving works of art that did not place due to the keen and close competition. If your art was not selected this time, do not be discouraged. Most importantly, keep on creating and growing through your art journey. May you all keep on sharing your creative processes, techniques, and encouraging one another. Bravo to each of you for contributing to this quality and well executed online art show!"
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Best of Show: "Inspire" by Ron Stephens, Collage / Mixed Media

"Inspire" is a compelling explosive abstract composition that allows the viewer's mind to soar. The burst of energetic primary colors of red, yellow, and blue fiercely dominate over the black colors on the left and right. Emphasis is created with moving shapes and lines leading the eye to the center. The green dots along with the three red daubs of paint below both add a contrasting texture. Every top layer of paint has multiple underpainting colors peeking through which add to the overall texture. The written word "inspire" adds to the painting's interpretation; however, its placement on the left is secondary to the main center focal point. Interestingly, the word inspire is written in black on a floating white cloud shape that emerges above the darkness.

Judge's Choice: "Xanadu" by Kay Hoag, Collage / Mixed Media

"Xanadu" is an inviting creative journey into implied and actual textures, shapes, lines, and colors. The detailed design includes a palace, temples, tombs, mounds, gardens, and landscape areas that create an amazing artistic cultural fusion. The starlit night sky gives a contrast to the bright golds below. The linear work guides the eye movement while creating new textures and shapes. Three divisions of space including the foreground below, middle ground with buildings, and the night sky above give a strong depth of field to visually explore.

Oil / Acrylic 1st Place: "Early Morning Flight" by Steve Miller

"Early Morning Flight" is a detailed representational painting that places us in real time with the beautiful ducks in flight. This is amazingly and accurately rendered from nature. The atmospheric perspective within the soft landscape and reflection upon the rippling water have a calming stillness. This is juxtaposed with the swift rising action of the ducks. The progressively blurred trees and clouds are a perfect background for the masterfully illustrated ducks in the foreground. Each of the six ducks is uniquely executed in shape, form, color, and pattern which give variety to the subject. This painting captures a moment in time that few people have an opportunity to see.

Water Media on Paper 1st Place: "Seasonal Visitor" by Claudia Caudill

"Seasonal Visitor" is a burst of predominantly cool colors accentuated with a few warm hues. This common still life subject of flowers is refreshingly elevated through a combination of watercolor techniques and creativity. The abstract style applied to the flowers gives a bold but ethereal effect. The washes of transparent color bleed into one another creating overlays of patterned shapes and textures. The repeated black lines and washes add shadowed depth and form to the composition.

Collage / Mixed Media 1st Place: "Tough Guy" by Brenda Guyton

"Tough Guy" is an interesting structural combination of paint and repurposed materials applied to a most unusual subject: an iguana! Surprises of a variety of different elements surface throughout the composition. The organic shapes from nature are seen in the patterned green leaves, brown rock, and the lizard. However, these are interestingly juxtaposed with the repeated man-made machine parts which bring radical but unified contrast. In person, it might be hard to keep hands off this highly textured lizard.

Pastel / Graphics 1st Place: "Hilton Cove" by Wendy Koehrsen

"Hilton Cove" gently captures serenity for the viewer. The beautifully applied soft pastel colors in the sun and clouds are harmoniously echoed in the reflection below. The blues and violets from the sky are mirrored in the water. The focal point of the boat creates interesting subdivisions of space with the vertical mast poles and diagonal ropes. The deep browns and solid beams of the pier work in tandem with the boat. The leaves in the right foreground add balance to this work of art.

Digital / Photographic Art 1st Place: "Vortex 8V" by Warren Paul Harris

"Vortex 8V" is a commanding abstract piece that takes swirling movement to a whole new level. The repeated intensity of saturated bright colors is bold and energetic. The four middle vertical circles add color changes to the curving linear patterns. Textures and shapes are in abundance but in a creative, non-traditional manner. This dynamic whirlpool of color appears intensely alive. This work seems to be in a continuously changing state of flux.