



**Newsletter of the
Minnesota Artists Association
Est. 1937**

www.minnesotaartistsassoc.com

Adjust Your Calendar!

April--? Our show at Banfill-Locke shelters in place. A pickup date is TBA.

April 21 Meeting cancelled due to the coronavirus epidemic.

May 19 No meeting, BUT send jpgs of what you have been working on to jemrich@aol.com for our next newsletter.

*Congratulations
to our
Spring 2020 Exhibition
Award Winners!*

Though our opening reception was cancelled as we shelter in place, we are pleased to present our winners on the following pages.

It seems we are living in a Salvador Dali painting, doesn't it? It is a surreal time in history. I am grateful for the people that are risking their own health to ensure ours. I have never been so appreciative of the grocery store workers!

The Minnesota Artists Association was founded during the Great Depression to support the artists who needed it. This is again one of those times. For some, "shelter in place" is a dream come true. Finally, time to be alone and do our art! For some, social distancing is what they have strived to avoid their whole lives. It can be lonely and scary. We like to know there are people who care that we can communicate with.

Please be in touch with other artists, especially those that live alone. Call...or better yet, video conference people. There are free video conferencing apps like FaceTime, Zoom, and Google Groups. If you are not using them, you might want to find a kid who will walk you through it over the phone. This is a great time to make that website you always said you were going to make. Shakun has helped a few of us do just that. She is willing to help you over the phone and/or over the internet. Contact her at ShakunTalaDesign@Yahoo.com or call 952-476-6475. Put your art on social media! We all want to see what you are doing. Stay safe and smile a lot! Jim Geisinger, MAA President

MAA Spring 2020 Show Awards with Judge's Comments by Abby Kosberg,
Executive Director of Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts



Award of Excellence

JuliAnne Jonker, *Courage to Survive*, oil and silver leaf on panel, \$3,800

The detail in this work is fantastic and I was immediately drawn in by the sharp precision of the artist's brush strokes. But what really made this work stand out to me was the addition of the silver leaf. By creating an almost mirror in the image, it brought me into the physical painting, creating an instant bond with me and the woman in the painting.



Award of Excellence

Sandy Parnell, *The Art of the Game*, assemblage, \$135

As a collage historian by trade, I'm always drawn immediately to collage and assemblage. But this work really stood out to me because of its playful use of color and shape. The reiteration of the Mahjong tile shape through the encompassing boxes and the reiteration of the tile colors with the Backgammon board that carries through to each box border makes the viewer's eye playfully bounce back and forth, keeping the viewer engrossed in the work.



Award of Excellence

Art Weeks, *Winter Farm Stubble*, Pastel, \$650

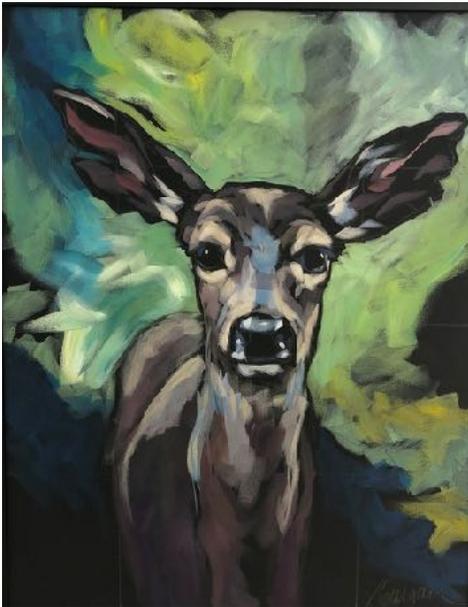
The colors and detail in this work are exquisite. Every line is perfectly worked into the composition. I was particularly struck by the use of purples in the field and their sharp contrast with the yellows in the horizon. I pay a lot of attention to the working (or overworking) of a piece, and this one walks that balance perfectly where each detail is worked with absolute precision.



Award of Merit

Richard Mittelstadt, *Spinning Out of Control*, acrylic, \$645

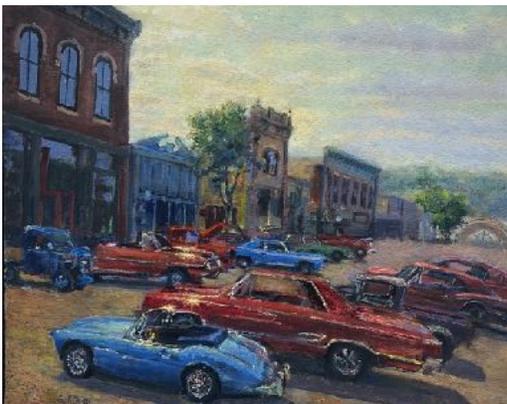
The colors in this painting are so stark and so beautifully planned out. Oranges, yellows, and purples are direct contrasts, but somehow in this painting they are transitioned so well into one another that my eye was pulled (or maybe more accurately spun) around the canvas, processing the color gradients while being totally engrossed in the painting. I was particularly taken by the seamless incorporation of the royal purple frame; it becomes a part of the painting rather than serving as a border to the work.



Award of Merit

Kat Corrigan, *Forest Resident*, acrylic on black gessoed canvas, \$1232

I was immediately held captive by the deer's gaze in this painting. I noticed the faint pencil marks across the canvas, which to me seemed to be a direct line back to the artist's hand. But then, when I let my eyes wander across the canvas I was held longer by the clear artist's mark on the canvas. Every brush stroke is so purposeful--not one stroke is overworked.



Award of Merit

Greg Lecker, *Gathering of Old Friends*, oil on panel, \$695

I was immediately struck by the brush strokes in this work. They are thick and fluffy, giving texture and life to the painting. I was particularly struck by the highlights on the cars; the yellow-white pops out into space physically, but is just as pronounced through the stark contrast in color.



Honorable Mention

Emmy White, Wayward Design, acrylic, \$300

The painting immediately put a smile on my face! I love the whimsical design, the attention to linework, the use of layering, and especially the visible mark of the artist's brush strokes. It's also in a perfect frame for the design, showing a beautiful attention to detail and great craftsmanship.



Honorable Mention

Wayne Sisel, *Configuration*, watercolor, \$500

I was immediately drawn to the coloring and layers in this work. I appreciate that the artist used different layers of paper and canvas in order to give depth to what appears to be a purposefully flattened design of this landscape.



Honorable Mention

Peter Freeman, *Mini Golden Inn (Near and Far Series)*, photograph, \$150

In this photograph, perspective is everything! It's a perfect example of three point linear perspective, just as the Renaissance masters so carefully mapped out. The image comes alive through the coloring and the painterly printing of the photograph.

Fabriano Hot Press Changes and a Better Replacement

by Terrie Christian

Since 1997 I have used Fabriano Hot Press exclusively and loved it! I paint small, and when it would be on sale I would stock up. I did not get short on supply until a few months ago. I had heard that it had been changed by other artists and was surprised at the displeasure I felt with the new supply I ordered.

Usually, I get my paper from Cheap Joe's so I called them up and they told me they have received the same feedback from other artists and Fabriano is losing business. I also asked them for any suggestions of something they may have that would replace it. They suggested a sample pack of Fluid 100 Hot press and I ordered it in the 5 sheet supply of 16 x 20.

I loved the way the paint would stay on the surface of hot press and also the feel of the smooth paper on my fingers. What I could see with the new version of Fabriano is that the paint no longer stayed on the surface and it also lost the smooth feel, and especially after I had painted on it wet into wet. Also, on the other side, I could see that the junctions in the paper did not look tight like their old product but looked almost like the weave of fabric.

The Fluid 100 is also 100% cotton rag, I use 140#. The weave is very tight, the feel of the paper very smooth and the outcome of the painting is even better in my view than the original Fabriano. The one thing that does not perform quite as well is that I like to tear the edges of my paper and it does not quite leave as nice a finished edge as the old Fabriano. An easy trade off for the satisfaction of smoothness and how the paint glides on the surface.

Happy art making to all!

So now we're all full time artists in residence! Let's shelter in place at our easels and drafting tables! Here's some inspiration as you wait out the coronavirus epidemic.

Portrait painting inspiration: Go to youtube.com and do a search for the channel "cherzo". Select "cherzo portrait artist of the year" and then "Portrait Artist of the Year 2020 Episode 1". This is a British production in which nine artists compete in painting the portraits of three models in each episode of which there are eleven. Very inspiring and definitely binge-worthy!

line-of-action.com On this website, you can refine and expand your drawing skills through timed drawing from photos in a variety of categories. Just bring your sketchbook and drawing/painting tools to your computer and sketch away. The photos are excellent.

HEADS UP! Because we won't be meeting together in May, let's have a show-and-tell in our next newsletter. Send to jemrich@aol.com a jpeg or two of what you have been working on as you shelter in place The deadline is the 25th of April.