

Award of Excellence:

JuliAnne Jonker - Vision at Ghost Ranch - Oil & wax

This painting is a teaser to a dark, slow burning thriller. This is a film I want to see. There's no spoiler in this trailer. We're inspired to come up with our own story, to fill in the blanks for ourselves. It is beautifully rendered and evocative. I'd love to know the real story.

Marjorie Moody - Letting Go - Oil & cold wax

When I see a picture I like in an exhibition I inevitably ask myself if I would enjoy living with it. I want the pictures on my wall to tap me on the shoulder occasionally and tell me another story. I think Marjorie's image would be that kind of image. I can see tales of modern city life, laws written on ancient tablets, a ghostly portrait, threats of digital warfare. The craftsmanship is marvelous.

Michele Combs - Mountain Home - Nepal - Oil

A proud portrait of a colorful, sturdy cottage. Entirely believable. Michelle, you give us plenty of clues to a sublime day in an awesome place on earth. This painting is beautifully crafted. Who of us does not want to breathe that air, and feel that sunshine?

Award of Merit:

Vera Kovacovic - Winter Colors Magic - Gouache

Simply, it's a gorgeous gesture of a landscape. It is succinct and engaging. The color is true and concise. This painting has all the proper features, and still it is surprising. Yes, I believe it is the gesture, the directness, the confidence, packed into a gem sized image. All that warm color and it feels so cold.

Greg Lecker - Confluence - Oil on canvas

Fabulous point of view. I'm an eagle in this painting. It's an anthem to our great waterways. It is also a warning, I think. As we move down the composition, the state of the river becomes unclear, like where the Ohio River mixes its mud with the Mississippi. The forced perspective speaks to the force of nature, and I think to the river's unknown outcome. Nicely done.

Ann Sisel - Point Rouge - Acrylic & collage

You're speaking my language. Maybe that's not fair to the other artists, but I'm the juror today – Thank you, Marjorie. Point Rouge, it's a busy thing, shapes and marks bouncing all over the place. It's hard to push through, like a prairie full of thistles. The only path appears to be up. That's not easy either. Plus, there may be a metamorphosis theme in there. In any case, it does feel like a journey fraught with pointy impediments. This may be the story of your artistic process.

Honorable Mention:

Sheldon Stockdale - Blessings from the Top - Low karat gold on polished granite

This sculpture is direct, simple – 3 pieces! – a jewel. It's a mid-century modern rendering of The Burning Bush. With a story like that, and that triangle rising to the heavens your small sculpture grows into a monument.

Perhaps you will consider working together with the artist who painted the well placed picture next to your sculpture. I think you and Calvin could make some fabulous work together.

Emmy White - Lonely Fish - Watercolor, varnished

What kind of games will a child concoct out of her boredom? A lonely fish swims out of its watery plane to make a friend with a tree. Poke poke poke with its fishy face to get the tree's attention. Or, the lonely fish just wants to get to the other side and the tree is in the way. Or....

I am a complete sucker for the variety of marks, and the playful unsubtle colors. You know how it is when you buy a new car and suddenly you see That make everywhere? Well, since I have seen this painting last week, I have seen 3 more paintings by Emmy White.

Andrea Candlin - Spring - Acrylic

Spring, indeed! Verdant, good chance of rain. I can smell this painting. It feels homie, not in a trite way. This little scene is not entirely happy, giving it a grownup feel for its childlike simplicity. I look forward to seeing more of your painting.