



Wickford Art Association's Annual Members Exhibit
July 26 to August 11, 2019
Judged by Kathrine Lovell

1st prize - "Lobster Woman", oil

By Anne Winthrop Cordin

This painting has so much skill, craftsmanship, and mastery. The overall grey of the image is enlivened by the primary colors, in a way that feels good to look at. Good visual rhythms that lead one right in.

This painting gives me a full range of sensual engagement, from the sound of the water lapping at the boats, to the smell of fishy dock, to the sunny, foggy atmosphere.

This is a stand out. New painters should look to this painting as a primer on composition and color.

2nd Prize - "A View from the Bridge", acrylic

By M. A. Podolak

It is hard to depict time in a painting, it is difficult to represent how light changes, how the sky evolves, but this painting did it for me. I kept returning to it because it captured the feeling of being in the landscape on a summer day, while the hours slip away, without care or thought.

I particularly enjoyed the use of the grid in this painting, each section a little different. It has inspired me to think a bit differently in my own landscape paintings.

As an artist, number one, you are an entertainer. Paintings activate the brain, visually stimulating many areas, including memory, and fantasy. This painting really entertains! Beautiful!

3rd Prize - The Green Man, clay sculpture

By Jillian Barber

The Green Man is a standout of artistic mastery and beauty. This piece stood out to me, the minute I walked into the room. Good use of color, form and judicious editing. Pottery is a cruel craft, in that it all can be ruined at the end by a bad firing or a bit of butter fingers. Whenever I see a piece like this that has taken hours and hours to create, and has survived the vagaries of the mud gods, I am impressed. Add to that the well-balanced color, engaging subject matter, and it is clearly a winner. Thank you.

Honorable Mention - "Lily in Pink", watercolor

By Mariko Toyama

These lilies burst off the page. Good use of color. I find lilies really difficult to paint, the structure of the flower can be so hard to capture, so I am impressed by how well the artist has managed to make these flowers feel loose and light and not over-worked. They really stood out to me, because they feel fun and well crafted. Each lily has its own individuality, but they all clamor to greet the viewer. Nicely done!

Honorable Mention - “Receiving Line”, pastel

By Patricia Varón

This is a charming piece, slightly abstract, a little out of balance in a really good way, with a bit of mystery. These elements keep me engaged and wanting to keep walking through the space. One element that helps to create the space is the bright light coming through the window at the back of the image. It is so solidly a place, that I forgot it was color marks on a surface. As I write this, I am remembering it from yesterday, and thinking of it not as a picture, but as an experience. Beautiful, careful, and masterful use of the medium.

Judge’s Award - “The Fourth of July” acrylic

By Lindsay Adler

This painting really evokes the heat, anxiety, and history of the holiday. It feels timeless and timely. I found myself wondering “which Fourth of July, this one or the first one?”. It pulled me right in. I could hear the rockets and feel the humid, July air. Along with the emotion, it is a well-balanced painting, with interesting visual texture and super bold use of color.

Judge’s Award - “Portals”, Mixed Media

By Joyce Neville

An arresting use of color, form, texture and color. This feels like what it’s like to wander through ancient European cities. An excellent use of repeated shapes, that creates a wonderful, jazzy rhythm. The palette of primary colors is bold and fun. Lots of really sophisticated work going on in this piece. Thank you to the artist for sharing this vision.

What I’d like artists to know:

I am impressed by the range and scope of the work created by WAA members. About a fourth of the membership participated in this show, in a huge variety of media.

It is always a daunting experience to pick prize winners in any show, and here there are many stand outs. So, I picked pieces that kept drawing me back, to look again, then again. At one point I had about 2 dozen pieces all vying for prizes and had to be ruthless.

I know what it feels like to miss the prize, and I know I’m not always placated by knowing there were so many good pieces to choose from. So, to my fellow artists who weren’t awarded prizes, I say don’t get bogged down or lost by that. Keep doing the excellent work you are doing. Art making takes some and practice.

To the prize winners, these pieces are stand outs! They were exciting to see, sparked my mind, entertained, and inspired me. Thank you for letting me a part of your wonderful show!

Kathrine Lovell
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