



Annual Member's Exhibit
July/August 2020
Stephan Brigidi – Judge

Walking into a gallery such as I did this day, is much like entering a magical garden. The room is full of colors and light with a relaxing softness, shifting from the heat of the outdoors to make an interior garden.

I always enjoy this opportunity to take in the work, really what I call the music of the walls of voices. Being in Wickford again was another pleasurable treat for me, in spite of the challenge of deciding where to place ribbons. It is hardly an easy task, but one that I do enjoy, taking in the views of eighty plus artists that have come together to make this unique garden.

The choices are mine, and I will explain myself in the decisions that I made. Two juror's awards were made beginning with the assemblage of *Fine China* because I enjoyed the whimsy of this androgynous figure with a quiet potpourri of fruits and objects. The other, a bold drawing of the three horses, *I Cavalli di Nettuno*, was beautifully done and it brought me back to Rome, which I believe was the source of its inspiration. This juror felt that both pieces should be so noted.

I was moved by the *Ancient Voices* of the mixed media piece that carried such echoes, presented in a rather raw but elegant organic state. It spoke to me differently than the *Solitary Stroll*, a simple pastel work with striking minimal color that I felt deserved this attention. Both received Honorable Mention from me.

Vision is what always stands out for me in distinguishing works of art. I want to see the vision, the view of the artist as he or she makes their stand. There is the gentle image of *Bridging Time* with rolling orange grass, holding that golden hour of light at the end of the day and with the brief accents of the towering bridge to the rear of the pastel. I placed this one third. *Let your Soul and Spirit Fly* became my choice for the number two award. I loved the disparate placement of the odd pieces of the musical score throughout the work.

Difficult as it was to place a blue ribbon as Number one, I was drawn to the artist's point of view in the *Young Ellis Food Mart*. To bring credence to such a mundane urban feature as a fire escape with bold shadows requires real thoughtful vision and appreciation. I couldn't help but notice the skill of the piece as well.

In this troubled time of Covid warfare, we find solace in our creative selves. It's a wonderful thing to do this solo, even better when we create a symphony in such a garden. Congratulations to everyone.

- Stephan Brigidi