



Abstract / Avant-Garde
August - September 2020
Joan Hall, Jurist

It was an interesting experience seeing the different interpretations of abstraction and the avant-garde from artists in the region. There were very good works that did not end up in the show because in the end it was my interpretation of what the title meant and a limited amount of space. Thank you to all the artists who submitted works and to the staff at the Art Association.

The term avant-garde was first used in 1863 in Paris by artists rejected from the Paris Salon show who organized their own exhibition. It has come to mean a symbol for progress, exploration and innovation. In jurying the exhibit, I also thought about my views of abstraction and the freedom from representational depictions in art by using color, texture and form to override representational accuracy.

Choosing the awards was a very difficult thing to do. *Glacier Study* (first place, by Catherine Mansell/Ink, Paper & Wax), is a very quiet work, that could be overlooked in a group show, but as I studied it, I really appreciated the artist's attention to detail with the framing. I felt the sliver frame tied in conceptually to the idea and became a part of the work. Often artists forget how important the framing is, it can contribute to the overall concept or interfere with the work, and some in the show come to mind. *Work in Progress* (second place, by Renee Syed/Mixed Media), gave a new meaning to recording information in a rolodex- remember those! While *Black, White, and Orange#1* (third place, by Diane Brown/Oil & Cold Wax) took me to another place through contemplation of the color and texture, a beautiful work.

There are many other works that resonated with me that did not receive awards, especially the photographs that were manipulated to not feel like photographs or the mixed media works using found materials. The works in the exhibition depict many different techniques for interpreting the Abstract and the Avant Garde. Congratulations!

- Joan Hall