

2021 CCAL 26th Annual Juried Show

Juror Comments on Awarded Artwork

(comments not provided for all awarded artwork)

Overall Comments:

Ryan Fox

Judging art is an impossible task. When I select awards for an art show I look for the paintings that feature great composition, interesting materials, innovative color schemes, and a mastery of the medium. But there is more than technical skills involved- a true award winner displays the “wow” factor.

- Wow- how did the artist achieve this effect?
- What a unique perspective/angle.
- I wish I had thought of this. Wow.

In a show as diverse as this exhibition there were many amazing pieces of art. The paintings that, in my opinion made me stop and say “wow” were:

Best of Show:

Ryan Fox

Selected: 46M – “Look What’s Coming” by Anne Hightower Patterson White

A masterpiece of design. Strong vertical shapes counterbalanced by horizontal and diagonal elements moves your eye around the centrally placed figures. The women appear to be looking off the canvas creating a sense of tension or uncertainty. A beautiful painting that holds your attention for a long time.

1st Place - 2D Master Category:

Ryan Fox

Selected: 20M – “Pretty in Pink” by Barbara Teusink

Composition makes or breaks a painting. The bright yellow pistil near the center could have easily become a bulls-eye. However, the expert choice to partially overlap the flower pistil creates movement in the piece and the shadows strengthen movement. The asymmetrical layout of the flower and strong lighting make this a "wow" piece.

2nd Place - 2D Master Category:**Ryan Fox**

Selected: 4M – “Restful Contemplation” by Julie Larkin

An abstract piece with layers of beautiful colors. Squiggle marks that head towards what appears to be a door? This painting retained my attention as I analyzed the graphic marks and interplay of color. There is depth in the layers of color even though there is no physical setting.

3rd Place - 2D Master Category:**Ryan Fox**

Selected: 28M – “Laundry Day” by Bobbi Sorensen

An interesting stylized approach to one of life's most mundane tasks - laundry. The artist uses a strong sense of light and overlapping compositional elements to create a strong sense of depth. This painting stood out immediately on a computer screen, and I am sure does in real life too.

1st Place - 2D Amateur Category:**Ryan Fox**

Selected: 9A – “Dreamer” by Mary Collette

I enjoy art that makes me wonder. This painting leaves a lot to interpretation. Is the person about to be run over by a plane? That's ok? What is the message here? Whatever is happening- this painting is riveting in its use of color and bold composition. Compositionally- the diagonal shape of the man's leg is repeated in colorful background marks. A painting that tells a story- an open and unwritten book. It is bold and fun.

2nd Place - 2D Amateur Category:**Ryan Fox**

Selected: 21A – “Mama Red Bird” by Willie Clark

Beautiful painting with expressive brush marks. The red bird is standing in front of loosely suggested background foliage with a strong light source creating maximum contrast. An example of how "less" is more - you do not need a ton of detail and this artist succeeded in creating a simple and beautiful painting.

3rd Place - 2D Amateur Category:**Ryan Fox**

Selected: 5A – “Window to the Tuscan Countryside” by Sandra Wilkie

An interesting high contrast window scene. The window frames the earth toned scene nicely but could have focused our eye too much on the building. The artist expertly used diagonal shadows on the building, highlights behind the shutters, and counter-diagonal treatment of the background landscape to create movement. They depicted a pleasant scene- I would love to stay in this room!

Overall Comments:**Skip Willits**

The entirety of the 15 pieces entered was outstanding as a whole, making the differentiation amongst pieces of art difficult at best. I tried to bring four elements into the judging, they are expression, technical ability, elements or principles of design and creative/uniqueness. Unfortunately, as with most photographic shows, other categories not considered separately in judging, are professional V. amateur and pure photography V. digital art. The former a factor in your show, the latter not so much. That having said the following awards can be made.

1st Place - 2D Photography Category:**Skip Willits**

Selected: 14 – “The Laborer” by Kimberly Case

This is one of those fine images made fine by years of professional experience with what works and what does not as well as the ability to plan, construct the image, and discard those which do not work. The ability to achieve all four categories of excellence is part of the job and not second nature. Having said that, this is an art show and as such I would have like to have seen a little more emotion in the subject and some darker lighting. That said, this is an excellent portrait done with originality and skill. Congratulations on your first place finish.

2nd Place - 2D Photography Category:**Skip Willits**

Selected: 7P – “Pileated Woodpecker” by Brian Fox

An extremely hard bird to photograph even with a long lens and this is an extraordinary head shot. The eye is in focus which is rule number one. Congratulations on a fine work.

3rd Place - 2D Photography Category:**Skip Willits**

Selected: 6P – “Belle Blue” by Brian Fox

Technically, this is an excellent image of a blue bird. I was taught early on, not to photograph a critter from the north if it is headed south, e.g., nothing from the rear. This over the shoulder image contradicts that in as much you were showing the feather work in the wings, tail and back. All in all a good work despite the so called rules, which often times are meant to be broken.

Patron Award - 2D Photography Category:**Skip Willits**

Selected: 5P – “Thirsty Roadrunner” by Erdal Caba

An image of opportunity I suspect. I would like to have seen the eye area more in focus, but the creativity of the overall image counter balances that slight imperfection. I love to see images of wildlife displaying their normal behavior in an image and this one certainly does that. Congratulations on a fine image.

Merit Award - 2D Photography Category:**Skip Willits**

Selected: 16P – “Experienced Shopper” by Robert Carlsson

A street scene I presume. I loved the emotion in the face but the focus is a little off in the hands. A tighter crop could reduce some of the clutter in the background, but the strong facial features diminish some the weaker parts of the image. Fine work.

USC Juror’s Award:**Patrick Burke**

Selected: 5M– “Pathways to the Goal” by Julie Larkin

The artist’s choice of complimentary colors interacts well together. The movement through the piece is energetic and troublesome. The line quality is mostly organic with a few geometric and straight lines contrasting the movement the color creates. The Title is "Pathways to the Goal". I feel like this is an accurate representation of the struggles and obstacles life throws at us when striving for our goals.

Selected: 13M– “Urban Renewal #6 - Free Parking” by Tommy Thompson

I chose this art piece because I felt that the composition kept my eyes constantly moving throughout the composition. This piece also displays that the artist paid very close to the details while constructing the piece that were executed successfully. The use of complementary colors also catches the eyes of the audience. I believe that this piece shows that even in destruction life will always prevail.