

2024 Members Show Juror's Statement

Thank you for inviting me to be your juror of awards. Perusing all of the fine entries in a search for awardees was a visual pleasure because PWCS has so many really talented artists. But deciding on awards was tough. After selecting about 40 potential awardees, I had to then narrow my choices down to just 13. For those 40 originally favored artists who did not make the final cut, I wish I could tell you how close you came to receiving awards, and how hard it was to not be able to include your pieces in my final selections. Here are the thirteen awards I finally settled on. A big congratulations to all of you!

Ken Goldman

– Juror of Awards, 2024 Members Show



1st Place

Peonies and Chamomile
Lana Privitera

I love the elegance of this striking composition and how the complementary dark green background, with its subtle leafy patterns, echos the exquisite textures in the flowers without overwhelming them. Even the ovals in the cups and vase, are painted with perfect perspective and amazing skill. This piece is a tour de force in draftsmanship and aesthetics.



2nd Place

Salies de Béarn
Pablo Ruben Lopez Sanz

I could just as easily have given this piece first place, as it is equally wonderful in its own way. But choices needed to be made. What I especially like about this watercolor is the way it so skillfully draws us into the distance, while still allowing us to enjoy and explore the middle ground and softly rendered foreground. It is difficult to depict 3D nature on a flat surface in the same way our eyes actually see a view (where only essentials are in focus and all else is

blurred), but this artist was able to do that. Quite a feat!



3rd Place

Ocean City
Stephen D. Rutherford

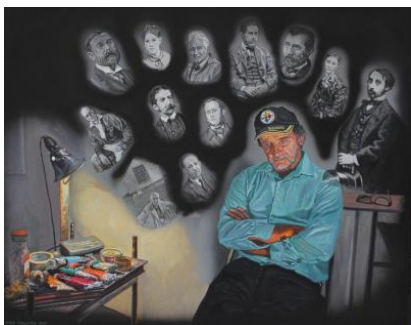
This low-key meditative composition is a visual testament to the virtue of simplicity. So much calmness is conveyed with so few strokes and objects. Here, the famous saying “less is more” is fully realized. The subtle gradation of sky into a flat, straight beach with gently curved boat and two simply painted figures create a focal point at exactly the right place, the “Golden Section.” Whether or not this was intentional, I do not know, but either way, this composition is flawless.



Award of Merit

We're Just Talkin'
Robert Burrige

In this non-objective composition, all of the elements and principles of good design are at work: ie, contrast of line, straights against curves, textural areas adjacent to flat areas, light against dark, and just a slight amount of nuanced red, subtly emerging from a light green next to the darkest dark. Just right, well done!



Award of Merit

My Guiding Lights
Fred Danzinger

2. Whatever this Artist/Steeler's fan is thinking is a mystery to me. But that's part of what I find so intriguing about this piece. Is the introspective artist having block? Just reminiscing on artists of the past? Coming up with historical ideas? Can't make it out, but sure love the concept and the way it is painted. This skillfully rendered composition is a visual mystery novel.



Award of Merit

The flying gees in the mountains
Han In Huang Wong

There is a sense of freedom and airiness in the way this watercolor is painted. The abstracted, juicy background is just as full of levity as the air-born Canada Geese. Is this background a fleeting glimpse of a distant land-mass in autumn mists, a waterfall, or just an indication of the artist enjoying a moment of playful abandon while watching the magic of wet into wet watercolor pigments mysteriously blending? Not sure, but whatever the intention, it all works together in a fresh and very painterly way.



Award of Merit

Glowing with Joy
Isabella Pizzano

The cool blue shapes in this semi-abstracted painting are very interesting in the way they emerge from the warm neutral and yellowish background. There is also a really nice interplay between the blue squares and spots of burnt sienna (blue's complimentary opposite). Varied and exciting line-work, graphics and dry-brushed textures add further interest. A very skillful use of the several elements and principles of good design.



Award of Merit

Soliloquy
William Sweeney

This rustic sunlit storage room conveys such a wonderful sense of place that I can almost smell the hay bales and perceive the dusty light. A drowsy cat soaking up a diagonal spot of warmth is the focal point, but the entire composition is also engaging. The repeating diagonals, cool bright windows, warm dark neutrals and well placed blues, yellows and reds reveal a strong abstract underpinning in this wonderful representational design. Great use of pastel.



Honorable Mention

The Mask
Christine Alfery



Honorable Mention

Harmoniously Connected
Donna Berk Barlup



Honorable Mention

Afternoon at Stover-Meyers Mill (Plein-Air)
Richard Hoffman



Honorable Mention

Olive Oil
Rebecca Postell



Honorable Mention

Pell Street Signs
Tim Saternow