

## 43rd Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibition – Jurors' Statement

It was an honor and privilege to serve as judges for the 43rd Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibition. It was apparent to us that the artists put a lot of effort, thought, and soul into producing their original works of art. Artists often create their work in solitude and without much input from others. It is taking a big risk for an artist to put their completed work into the hands of the judges. Our goal was to approach each work with this uncertainty in mind, and to try to have the ultimate respect for the work and the artist.

We were impressed by the high quality and diversity of the art submissions, which made our process of selecting final entries a most challenging endeavor. With this in mind, we want to offer our thoughts on the Best of Show and Merit Awards.

Tom Roesse  
Laura Conners

### **Best of Show – *Flower Line* by Mary Burke**

A strong, large-scale and impressive work, *Flower Line* entralls us with bold flowing shapes that dance across a pale-colored surface. The artist delights us with thoughtful layers of space that create both depth and perspective. The viewer is permitted to submit to their own interpretation while being treated to a skillful use of materials and a spot-on color palette. There was no question that this excellent painting was worthy of the award for Best of Show.

### **Merit Awards:**

#### **Painting – *Bowl of Plums* by Frances Cox**

The oil painting on gessoed paper is a well-drawn still life composition with lush colors and exquisite patterns. The artist framed the arrangement by exposing the deckle edge of handmade paper and further elevated the work with a well-chosen frame. A delightful work!

#### **Photography – *Behind the Barn* by Don Mishler**

This silver gelatin print was impeccably printed with a stunning composition of strong, layered abstract patterns. The artist harvested this abstract composition from familiar surroundings that we often overlook in our everyday life. He made the believable into magic.

#### **Sculpture – *Autumn Downhill* by Bryan Graham**

The artist's whimsical sense of humor shows up in this delightful small-scale painted wood sculpture with a compelling title. The use of an unexpected muted color palette further enhances this quirky artwork.

#### **Ceramic – *Sculptural Vessel* by Bill Kremer**

Monumental in its presentation, this sensuous yet subtle wood fired stoneware sensuous and subtle in its undulating silhouette. A gorgeous patina of color and texture complete a wonderful, powerful work.

**Mixed Media** – *It's All About Paper* by Valerie McBride

A textural paper surface turned into a geographic world is one might wish to live in. We are invited to travel many mountains and valleys, twists and turns to explore for hours, and not tire from the journey. This thoughtful intrigue and creative drama is presented in a kaleidoscope of intense and playful colors. A true delight.

**Drawing** – *On the Way Out* by Daniel Giddings

Giddings' ink drawing is a small-scale work, which is amplified by his kinetic patterns of calligraphic mark making. The strong contrast of black ink on white paper adds up to a powerful statement.

JURORS

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