Juror’s Comments:
It was difficult to judge because there were so many quality paintings. I pay attention to presentation and framing in addition to technical skills.

1st Place - Daniela Werneck
The strongest element of this beautiful painting is the horizontal line of the models’ body countered by the vertical lines of the curtain and tile. This composition is reinforced by the light. The strong darks and light and the details in the face again emphasize the subject.

2nd Place - Hendry, Alison
The artist’ simplified composition is formed by a hierarchy of branches in front of and behind the bird. The eye movement through the painting is based on the branches and there is enough detail to suggest the background.

3rd Place – Laurie Hammons
This abstract suggests flowers, with its organic shapes. It combines a lot of texture, the use of scratching and stamping and beautiful calligraphy to make the painting more engaging.

Shirley Sterling Award – Heip Nguyen
This painting is evocative of classical Chinese and Japanese paintings with simple marks that move the eye. The use of orange and yellow creates a circular pattern around the colorful center.

President’s Award - Carla Gauthier
Her technique is superb. You can see this in the sky. Her composition is perfect, and leads your eye around the painting, her shadow colors are spot on.

Director’s Award – Rona Lesser
The gestural, loose drawing and repeated colors makes this painting Picasso-like.

Honorable Mention – Katherine Rodgers
Realistic colors, not too much detail. The eyes are very well done. I like the spatter. It adds to the painting and becomes a directional element.

Honorable Mention – Leslie McDonald, Jr.
Well done drawing and perspective. Lots of detail but not too much. Strong horizontal yellows are complimented by the repetition of orange in other parts of the painting.

Honorable Mention – Debbie Lee Parmley
This painting has strong contours and simple color. The composition and makes use of its strong dark background.

Honorable Mention – Jackie Liddell
What drew me to this painting were the limited colors, combined with pattern and shapes that suggest foliage and move the eye around.

Honorable Mention – Elizabeth Graham
This painting showcases the beauty of blossoms and use of wet into wet of watercolor. It is a simplified landscape created with beautiful effects.

Merchant Award – Art Supply on Almeda – Lynda Jung
I love the multiple layers, use of marks, and spiderwebbing – they all bring the eye forward. I don’t know how she does it!
**Merchant Award – Golden – Mohammad Bhatti**
The face is beautifully done and there is a masterful use of color but what makes this painting is that the artist brings the background into the foreground on the subjects’ shoulder.

**Merchant Award – Texas Art Supply – Fontaine Jacobs**
It's hard to paint on Yupo. The swirls and colors in this painting are beautiful. The texture of the duck is completely different – this is difficult to do!

**Merchant Award – Texas Art Supply – Kay Salem**
This artist knows how to use color! She keeps it simple with beautiful orange and green. While the blue eyes are the focal point, the orange brings your eye around the painting. I also like the presentation on the board.

**Merchant Award – Dixon Ticonderoga – Mari Hales**
Every color in the flower is repeated throughout the painting. The reflected color bounces on the vase. It’s a beautiful use of color.

**Merchant Award – M. Graham & Co. – Chaitanya Alli**
Although this architectural scene is crooked, the composition helps to create movement. The use of blue adds to this as it moves the eye around, first vertically and then horizontally.

**Merchant Award – Cheap Joes – Cheryl Evans**
This painting engages the viewer and makes them want to know more about it. The complimentary colors of purple and green are loosely defined in a beautiful background.

**Merchant Award – Cheap Joes – Rosemary Massey**
I love the subtle value shift of the reflection. It has nice diagonal movement and less detail at the edges keep the eye in the painting.

**Merchant Award – Art Supply on Almeda – Susan Giannantonio**
This abstract painting created with the use of multiple layers and complimentary colors keeps the eye moving. It has great calligraphy, movement, and use of different edges.

**Merchant Award – Ampersand - Maureen Lewis**
This painting’s warm colors and use of only one dark area brings us immediately to the focal point. The subjects’ tassel keeps the eye in the painting while her gaze moves your eye around.

**Merchant Award – Winsor Newton - Jan Scrader**
Although the face is simplified, it remains the focal point. There is a lot of color even in the whites. The edges around the face are hard, the fir in the back is soft and this gives a great sense of depth. What’s best is what is not painted.

**Merchant Award – Jack Richeson Bridget De Flora**
This painting of clothing in simplified patterns is composed of a strong horizontal and diagonal. The highlights of the fabric are essential to its composition.

**Merchant Award – Blick – Stephanie Williams**
These unrealistic trees, with their organic shapes and color make a beautiful painting in orange and blues.

**Merchant Award – Blick – Mary Klug**
The graphic shapes, limited palette and texture make this simplified painting fun and wonky.

**Merchant Award – Blick – Larry Spitzberg**
I like the bright colors and the loose suggestive brushstrokes of this painting.

**Merchant Award – Blick – Ruby Allen**
The simple composition and cohesive color make this painting work.