

Artist Linda Southern Vanek – Enjoying the Journey 1st Place Winner

I don't paint abstracts, but I know a good one and this is outstanding. It is very painterly, with the hard to achieve lost and found edges that are more difficult with acrylic paints. I adore the colors together and the tilted line makes it very dynamic.

Artist Alison Hendry – The Girl from Avignon 2nd Place Winner

I love the composition. The simplicity of it and the beautiful details only on the subject's hair and dress keep her as the focal point. The skin color is wonderful, and the palette of beautiful soft colors contribute to this excellent painting.

Artist Keiko Yasuoka – Fresh Cut from the Garden 3rd Place Winner

This formal still life has a wonderful composition and the use of contrast of darks and lights gives a very dynamic feeling. I love the yellow and purple together.

Artist Ruby Allen - Enigma #15 Merchandise Award - Holbein

Love the colors! There are lots of colors, but they are just slightly muted, so the overall effect is not garish. The design keeps your mind imagining. A great abstract.

Artist Judi Coffey – Zentangle Walk Away Merchandise Award – Texas Art Supply

This is a dramatic composition. The painting looks like it is bursting. Teal combined with copper and grey is so satisfying. The zentangle drawing over the paint adds interest. Well done.

Artist Cheryl Evans – Peruvian Penthouse President's Award

This showcases a classic watercolor- the beautiful lights against darks and the use of wet-in-wet with dry brush. The simple color palette results in cohesion. The artist planned great shape variation in a nice composition.

Artist Theresa Fraga – Isabella Merchandise Award – Jack Richeson

This is a very personal painting of a young child. The skin tones are lovely, and the hair softens and merges a bit into the background. You can see a touch of the background color in the hair- a nice connection. The drawing is very well done. Notice the touch of frosting on her finger.

Artist Carla Gauthier – Florence Twilight Shirley Sterling Award

This is a painting that you can look at and enjoy for a long time. It looks like it was done all at once, without fussing. The detail work is at the focal point, as are the harder edges. The use of lost and found edges is masterful. I love the colors used in this simple color palette.

Artist Susan Giannantonio – Oxalis Exuberance Merchandise Award – Cheap Joes

I love the looseness and energy in this painting. The confident large strokes that work down into smaller strokes and details. You can see the build, from the light background to the dark areas that move the viewer through the painting. It's a wonderful design, with lots of action and several rest areas.

Artist Barbara Hall – Summers Bounty Merchandise Award – Daler Rowney

This has a pleasing composition and color palette. The watercolor technique is great, especially on the cucumbers on the left and simple details, such as asparagus tips. The many little shapes travel in many directions, providing interest.

Artist Karen Hamilton – Froggy Evening

Merchandise Award – Art Supply on Main

This painting made me chuckle. The artist did a good job on painting the details and the muted tones provide cohesiveness, make it easier to enjoy, and avoids a cartoon look.

Artist Fontaine Jacobs – One in Nine

Merit Award Winner

It is bold to attempt a portrait on Yupo and the artist has done a superb job. The proportions are good, even with the looseness of the strokes. Painting on Yupo provides such beautiful textures that are harder to achieve on watercolor paper.

Artist Maureen Lewis – Can I Keep Him?

Merchant Award – Texas Art Supply

This painting shows nice drawing ability that is very natural. The color scheme is very nice and works well with the effective use of light. I like that the subject is off center, conveying a story instead of a portrait.

Artist Hiep Nguyen – A Seashell Enthusiast

Honorable Mention

This is super dramatic! The composition and design show dynamic movement. The artists did a beautiful job of capturing what they originally saw. I love the shadow reflections and how it blends into the feet, legs, and arm. The bright warm sunset colors and the darks are supported by a subtle scattering of sparkles.

Artist Ellen Orseck – Effervescence

Merchant Award – Texas Art Supply

I was attracted to this because of the beautiful shapes and the almost abstract simplicity. The simple palette works beautifully, with touches of warmth in this underwater painting.

Artist Katherine Rodgers – Accessorized

Merchant Award – Texas Art Supply

The composition of the girl facing away makes you think of her story rather than just the girl. There is a beautiful sense of light and amazing detail in the focal areas. The scarf is beautifully done.

Artist Maria Rodriguez-Alejo – Vino

Merchant Award – Jack Richeson

I love the high contrast in this painting. There are sharp details in the wine bottle, but as you move away, the colors merge and there are lovely lost and found edges. The way the colors skip around is wonderful.

Artist Kay Salem – Gabriella Coloring Dreams

Merchant Award – M. Graham

Beautifully done! This is a very nice drawing, and the colors are gorgeous!

Artist Cathy Schuster – Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

Merchant Award – Art Supply on Main

I like the great contrast and beautiful composition. The variety of hat shapes, styles, colors make it very interesting. The artist shows a lot of confidence in their strokes. Nicely done.

Artist Jan Shrader – Echo of the David

Merchant Award – Zimmerman

This is a strong drawing and painting. Very nice skin tones. The pen only lower section adds interest.

Artist Larry Spitzberg – Across the River

Honorable Mention

This is such a colorful painting with confidently applied strokes. It reminds me of plein air work, done quickly without fiddling with edges or details.

Artist Daniela Werneck – Flowers, Plume, Pearl and Gold

Merchandise Award - Ampersand

This is beautifully painted. It is a tight composition, but the artist has great control of edges. The little birds, not immediately noticed, was a nice surprise. There are beautiful intricate details everywhere, but my favorite is the light and shadows on her arm.

Artist Regina West – Dancing Shadows

Merchandise Award - Golden

This is a very simple appearing painting that immediately brings a smile. There are clean colors, giving it an illustrative style. Upon closer inspection you see the tiny shapes, the intentional strokes, the multicolored tree trunk and the lovely, colorful shadows.

Artist Tommie Wilson – Harvest

Honorable Mention

I love the composition- the shapes flow down the page. There is great contrast of darks and whites, with limited details, shown in the roots and leaves.

Artist Nan Wright – Galveston Man O' War

Merchandise Award – Jack Richeson

I really like the techniques in this painting. There is lots of texture, but it is subtle, suggested just enough. I love all those colors in the dark shape of the man-of-war.