

Vlad Yeliseyev's Comments

1st Place: Mehrdad Sedghi "Ode to Joy"

Seemingly simple, but at the same time it gives me insight into the character. Masterfully executed with naturalness. Excellent rendering of light, where the light travels right up the painting.

2nd Place: Nishita Jain "Early Winter Snow"

Museum quality piece. The composition of colors evoke the feeling of early winter. This painting depicts nature as given by God. This is so hard to do. Absolutely stunning!

3rd Place: Dean Mitchell "Chavarria"

This shows masterfulness of composition and the medium. There's depth in the darks and transition of color in the face. This piece conveys character as art should.

Odette Rubin Award: Laurie Hammons "Flowers for Barbara"

Naive presentation and composition that works really well. Beautiful brushstrokes and color presentation. It is like Cezanne at his best!

Margaret Scott Bock Award: Adam Zhao "Mr. Brawn, Judge Emeritus"

I love this work! The hand is expertly done and subdued. Your attention goes right to the face. It is translated just right.

Jack Bowen Award: John James "Lightning Rod"

Wonderful edges! I love that the border has depth but is not black. Beautifully composed.

ET Kraycirik Memorial Award: Kathleen Conover "Contemplating Flight"

This one captivates me. It evokes a feeling of familiarity, like an artist's loft. It transports me. The cropping along the top gives immediacy to the work. The three colors work very well.

MERIT AWARDS

Mohammed Bhatti: "Shadows of Agony"

I love the wristband! Everything but the hands and the face are subdued. I just love this painting!

Aida Birritteri: "Tender"

The stars align on this painting! It has simplicity, focus and dynamics as well as a great composition!

Kathleen Durdin: "Sunset Stroll"

This is watercolor at its best! This is fresh and light without working too hard.

Z Feng: "In the Wood"

I like the unfinished look around the outer area. It isolates the subject matter. Good composition.

Chris Krupinski: "Feeling Left Out"

Well done. a master of technique.

Irene Sheytman: "Dream City-3"

I love this subject matter- it brings me back to my childhood. This is a good color palette and is very transparent.

David Smith: "Windy, Rainy, Luther Burbank"

I like the chromatic, loosely and freely painted scene. The composition is very nice.

Erik Sprohge: "World Houston"

This reminds me of Chagall. It invokes feelings of dreams and childhood. There's an innocence of presentation.

Philip Weigand: "Mission San Jose"

A simple presentation where the texture on the walls is very successful. The color balance is perfect.

Keiko Yasuoka: "Under the Sunlight"

This is the craft of watercolor at its best! It is where craft meets the subject in a beneficial way.

General comments about the exhibit by Vlad Yeliseyev:

" We are in a battle with the challenges of AI. These paintings win because they are so human.

***This is a high-quality show. It rivals the American Watercolor Society Show.
" Vlad Yeliseyev***