

JUDGE'S COMMENTS**DUPAGE ART LEAGUE**Exhibit: MARCH MADNESS**SCHOOL & GALLERY**Month: MARCH 2024**218 W. Front Street, Wheaton, IL 60187 (630) 653-7090**JUDGE: LYNNE KORNECKI**BEST OF SHOW:**

Artist: Alice Matthews

Medium: Chinese Brush/Rice Paper

Title: Over the Forbidden City

Comments: Using the technique of traditional Chinese brush work on rice paper, Alice has captured a scene of natural beauty with the graceful swooping of many cranes. Beautifully rendered with great detail, both in foreground and background, Alice has created an arresting image filled with detail for the viewer to admire. Her judicious use of color helps both ground the eye yet give the piece aerial motion. Although the main focus is bird activity, the sturdiness of the city wall and pavement bricks below add cohesiveness and stabilization.

THEME AWARD:

Artist: Tom Finn

Medium: Scratchboard

Title: Chuck Taylor All Stars

Comments: I found this piece fascinating because of the 3-D effect the artist has created using a challenging medium, scratchboard. The realistic shoe looks as though it is extending outwards directly toward the viewer – almost as though he has achieved an optical illusion. The limited color palette of the shoe and the worn details on it help contribute to its outstanding realism. If March Madness is the month of great collegiate basketball, then these shoes reflect the theme well.

SPECIAL MERIT:

Artist: Mai Hussein

Medium: Acrylics

Title: A Visit

Comments: This captivating piece reveals a wildly interesting story between a man and a woman. The energy between the two figures and the use of color to identify them is riveting making the viewer wonder, “is this a welcome or an unwelcome visit?” There is so much line detail and imaginative use of color, that it is a piece a viewer would not tire of looking at. Each view reveals another subtle piece of information about this scene.

SPECIAL MERIT:

Artist: Lisa Lucaccioni

Medium: Acrylics

Title: Winter Into Spring

Comment: The artist has beautifully captured the glowing sky through the snow-laden trees. Little hints of green along the ground hint at Earth’s upcoming rebirth. Snow is beautifully depicted with all its subtle and reflective qualities – great color choices here. Fine brush work illuminates the tree details so well and places the viewer deeply within the scene. Excellent composition teases the eye to look further and further into the grove beyond.

SPECIAL MERIT:

Artist: Ken Kucera

Medium: Oil

Title: Waterfall

Comments: So many natural elements grace this painting from the rush of the waterfall to the complacency of the sturdy rocks lining the shoreline. The artist has created an arresting natural scene where the viewer can almost hear the water and enjoy the blue sky above. Foreground and background work together well with a lovely, calming palette of colors that are simultaneously realistic and soothing.

MERIT AWARDS:

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| 1. Mary Dorrell, 53 Vets, Oil | 8. Fran Puglise, Nothing But Net, Oil |
| 2. Sue Thomas, Acadia Sunset, Pastel | 9. Olivia Bergan, Good Bert, Graphite/Colored Pencil |
| 3. Joan Kalmarek, At the Orchid Show, Photo | 10. Dixie Lee Hadley, Spring is Coming, Acrylic |
| 4. Barb Finn, A Street in Galway, Pastel | 11. Marianne Lynch, Shopping in Bavaria, Watercolor/Ink |
| 5. Darlene Edwards, Mayhem in Marck, Mixed | 12. Lori Tucker, End of Dormancy, Oil |
| 6. Roberta Tassara, March Madness, Mixed | |
| 7. Jennifer Hauser, Fat Birch, Ink and Colored Pencil | |

