

# BEST OF THE BEST SHOW 2025

## JUDGE: AMANDA MCCARTHY

### **BEST OF SHOW:**

Jane Frey

*The Studio*

Oil

Comments: This still life of an artist's studio stood out for the masterful execution of a timeless theme- art about art. Through the precise reflection and refraction of light, this piece showcases exceptional technical skill while engaging in a broader dialogue on the very meaning of art. It is as intellectually rich as it is visually compelling.

### **FIRST PLACE:**

Bonnie Vargas

*Grandpa's Warbirds*

Oil

Comments: Rooted in the American realist tradition, this still life commands attention through its quiet intensity and technical precision. The artist elevates model warplanes into contemplative icons, transforming them from objects of nostalgia into powerful symbols of memory, heritage, and reflection.

### **SECOND PLACE:**

Diane Fliehler

*Single Moment*

Oil pastel

Comments: Bold bands of color evoke an emotion that feels as though it comes from beyond. With a nod to Rothko, this small abstract oil pastel pulses with a quiet, potent, and timeless presence. Despite its intimate scale, it radiates a power that draws the viewer in and holds them there.

### **THIRD PLACE:**

Carol Zack

*Rue Dauphine,  
La Bucci, Paris*

Oil Pastel

Comments: Masterfully executed in oil pastel, the artist emphasizes verticality in this moody nocturnal Parisian street scene. The bold palette, paired with elongated shadows, creates a heightened sense of isolation — a moment suspended in time, both beautiful and haunting.

### **HONORABLE MENTION:**

Alice Matthews

*Over the Forbidden City*

Brush painting

Dale Olsen

*Queen's Garden*

Acrylic

Mary Rodriguez

*Good Hair Day*

photography

Donna Castellanos

*Everybunny Needs  
Somebunny*

mixed media