

DUPAGE ART LEAGUE
218 W. Front Street, Wheaton, IL 60187

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

DATE: March 2026
JUDGE: Vilayphone Gingerich

BEST OF SHOW

Artist: Fran Puglise Title: Frontline Mamas. Medium: Pastel

Comments: This stands out for its strong composition, rich color, and impressive depth. The artist captures an active protest scene with “Mamas” leading and boys and men supporting, creating a powerful sense of movement and unity. The layered figures and confident use of pastel bring the moment vividly to life.

THEME AWARD

Artist: Danielle Crilly Title: Auntie’s Church Ladies Medium: Pastel

Comments: Dark coats anchor them like time-tested pillars, but their skin and the softly glowing background radiate the warmth of decades lived. Arms hooked, these church aunties form a chain of knowledge and resilience, each gesture carrying stories of love, struggle, and faith.

SPECIAL MERIT

Artist: Natalya Rowland Title: Surrounded by Flowers Medium: Oil

Comments: This painting has a captivating blend of mystery and vibrancy—the girl’s Mona Lisa-like expression paired with delicate textures in her hair and the surrounding blooming flowers creates a moment full of grace and life.

SPECIAL MERIT

Artist: Benita Brewer Title: And We Rise Repeatedly Medium: Watercolor

Comments: This celebrates the courage and solidarity of women, using bold red and powerful symbols to show their determination to keep standing up for their rights.

SPECIAL MERIT

Artist: Adele Dunn Title: Grandmas’ Whispers Medium: charcoal

Comments: Grandmas’ Whispers" is a delicate charcoal drawing with soft blending, capturing a joyful moment—a baby cradled between two smiling grandmas, radiating warmth and love

MERIT AWARDS

Marguerite Paris: Ode to a White Begonia, Watercolor

Holly Hughes: Sun Damage, photo

Katherine Jacobsen: Winter Hike, pastel

Cynthia Boudreau: Idyllic Adriatic’s, fiber

Lisa Pires: Life’s Joy, pencil and charcoal

Nancy Anderson: Market Day, pastel

Barb Finn: Isabella, conte

Pallavi Jain: Rhythm that Weave Royal Tales, Rajasthan, India, watercolor

Dawn Halter: Degas’ Blue Dancers, oil

Ken Kucera: Forest Frenzy, oil

Gary DeClute: Proverbs 31:10, photo

Myriam Villalta-Elijah, Mother Theresa, oil and cold wax

