

DUPAGE ART LEAGUE

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

DATE: May 2026

JUDGE: Cherylyn Gnadt

BEST OF SHOW

Artist: Asmi Tayal Title: Nowhere to Call Home Medium: acrylic

Comments: Aptly named, could be nowhere and anywhere. The contemporary color palette juxtaposed with the elements of the past — cigarette and pay phone. The viewer is pulled back in time. What is her story?

THEME AWARD

Artist: Fran Puglise Title: Seasons of Change Medium: soft pastel

Comments: Composition and color create a feeling of being “boxed in”. The facial expression of peaceful resistance, “haven’t we learned”. She has been here before, standing in (dis)belief. Expert treatment of medium and light and dark.

SPECIAL MERIT

Artist: Barb McCarthy Title: Marie & Grandpa Medium: acrylic

Comments: Wonderful movement and color blocking. You could feel the lightness in the child’s footsteps and the slowing down of the grandfather’s — both keeping pace.

SPECIAL MERIT

Artist: Johanna Rebman Title: First Painting of Wonder. Medium: mixed media

Comments: Bright-eyed wonderment captured eloquently. The primary colors highlight the age of beginnings.

SPECIAL MERIT

Artist: Robert Koch Title: Hillside Farm Medium: watercolor

Comments: Nice exploration of the medium and depth of the landscape. The rich colors add to the life of the hillside — and the gestural lines give the painting a sense of energy.

MERIT AWARDS

Jeff Zawada	“A Butterflies Life”	pen/ink/watercolor
Joan Kalmanek	“Awaiting Second Life”	photo
Deb Vensel	“Mother and Daughter”	pen and ink
Jennifer Hauser	“Morning Lovers”	ink and pencil
Chris Hughes	“Rain Forest”	acrylic
Cynthia Boudreau	“Meandering Stream”	fiber
Barb Plichta	“Renewal- First Day of Spring”	watercolor
Tina Turner	“Garfield Goose and Friends”	oil
Diane Peterson	“Small Wonders”	oil pastel
Barb Finn	“Neighborhood Watch”	pastel
Esther Diamond	“One Buddha is Not Enough”	soft pastel/mixed media
Sarah Carlson	“Rest”	mixed media

