

**DUPAGE ART LEAGUE  
JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

**DATE:** July 2026

**JUDGE:** Amanda McCarthy

**BEST OF SHOW**

Artist: Ray Sheers Title: The Devil's Trill Medium: photography

Comments: Shado and light carry the figure into near abstraction while explosive geometric color bursts make audible what the camera could not record. The combination of photographic realism and pure geometric form gives the work its dynamic force.

**THEME AWARD**

Artist: Tina Turner Title: Mary Rippin's Farm Medium: oil/mixed media

Comments: This painting earns its depth twice over, through the paint handling that layers impasto built up against scraped- back passages and through literal 3-D branches and miniature animals worked into the surface. The surface rewards sustained looking and the color choices are confident and unexpected!

**SPECIAL MERIT**

Artist: Myriam Villalta-Elijah Title: Purple Haze Medium: oil and wax

Comments: The artist layers oil and cold wax into bands of purple, white, green and yellow that swirl together and look atmospheric! The technique is executed well and rewards close looking.

**SPECIAL MERIT**

Artist: Rebecca Schobel Title: Poppin Petals Medium: watercolor

Comments: The artist renders a familiar subject uniquely. She lets the texture of the paper do the abstracting.

**SPECIAL MERIT**

Artist: A. Mead Title: In the Garden Medium: acrylic

Comments: This painting rewards the viewer twice: from close up and far away. Up close the brushwork breaks into fragments of pure paint, step back and it snaps into focus. The bright orange pots burning against the dark stalks give it a color punch that works whether you are close or far.

**MERIT AWARDS**

Debbie Morris	Roses in Bloom	pastel
Robert Koch	Monet Memory XXIII	oil
Barbara McCartney	Steinbeck's Western Flyer	acrylic
Marlene Vitek	Nature's Color and Lines	mixed
Helen Read	Celestial Dream	acrylic
Sue Krzyzanowski	Off Center	pastel
Michael Hogan	Lake Afternoon	watercolor
Michelle Rogowski	Chromatic Silence	oil pastel
Evalyn Holy	Hot Spot	acrylic
Candace Thomas	Looking Down on Earth	oil
Chris Hughes	Colorado	acrylic
Margaret Zymali	Somewhere in the Attic	encaustic