

Highlights



Baltimore Watercolor Society: A Mid-Atlantic Organization of Watermedia Artists

Summer 2019



President's Palette

Again this Summer I asked our three Mid-Atlantic Medal winners to share with us the stories behind their paintings. When reading thru them, I was immediately struck by the fact that the three, together, embodied and wrote about what we try to impress upon our Signature Artist Jurying applicants in our criteria: that for a painting to be outstanding, it must tell us a story, evoke a mood, make us empathize with the inner emotions of the artist, be well designed/composed to focus on the subject, use color- warm and cool, varied, lights and darks, positive and negative shapes, and be technically well painted. These three ring all the bells. So read

carefully and enjoy their three different approaches to creating an excellent painting “In Their Own Words”:

Gold Medal: Joanna Barnum, “Within/Without” (Right)

“I originally created the self-portrait ‘Within/Without’ as one half of a diptych, in response to a call for entries in a themed juried show earlier this year. The other half of the diptych was honestly a miserable failure. I finished both pieces right before my original deadline and submitted them anyway, only to be rejected. I immediately tossed the ‘yucky’ half of the project to the bottom of my flat file, never to be seen again, but decided that I was quite pleased with this half of the pair and that it stood on its own as a single piece. When I first started on the painting, I thought the brambles symbolized the difficulty of achieving meaningful connection with other people. But as I was working on the piece, I was also beginning a practice of mindfulness meditation, and by the time I was finished, I discovered that the painting seemed to be about finding a moment of mental peace and clarity ‘Within’ in the midst of chaos ‘Without.’ Many of the abstract marks in the painting were created by using masking fluid applied with a rough brush. I often use this technique to create interesting shapes and to ‘splice’ together the imagery I want to combine.”



Upcoming Events

Mid-Atlantic Exhibition
BlackRock Center for the Arts
Germantown, MD
June 8-July 13, 2019
Pick up: July 15, 9am-12pm

Plein Air Exhibit
Irvine Nature Center
Owings Mills, MD
July 1-August 30, 2019
Reception: July 27, 2-4pm

Associate & Signature Exhibit
Kentlands Mansion
Gaithersburg, MD
November 2019
(Details TBA)

Silver Medal: Lois Wolford, “Three For Breakfast”



“I am always looking for subjects that invoke a mood in me. One summer, while eating breakfast at a hotel, I was first struck by the shape of a woman sitting across the way. Her hair was in a bun; she was leaning in with light from above hitting the back of her red dress. Her head was turned slightly and she became almost a silhouette. She seemed to pair perfectly with the painting above her. It was then I noticed the other family members. The body language of the three figures told a familiar story of parents engaged in conversation while their young child showed early signs of restlessness. My hope was that this voyeuristic view would invite the viewer in and allow them to relate to this young family. I take multiple photographs of my subject and select the one I think is the strongest. Then I begin designing the painting. First I determine the format that will best suit the subject and crop the image accordingly. Then I add or eliminate things to help strengthen and tighten the composition. Lastly I decide on color. I usually pick a triad and stick closely to that limited palette. I enjoy working on a wet page and using less water and more pigment as the painting progresses. This allows me to achieve more variety in the edges, and to make changes and adjustments in the wet areas.”

Bronze Medal: Jean Gill, “Infernal Combustion”



“I enjoy painting organic, curvilinear subjects and often find or impose linear elements to create visual rhythms and contrasts. I focus on pattern and shape (not form) and attempt to infuse my paintings with energy, celebration, or drama. To those ends, I paint on vertical paper and encourage downward action via strategic misting, wet glazing and gravity, deliberately preserving motion in the finished work. This fluid technique can be risky, but it can also enhance expression and promote spontaneous blending and varied edges. “Infernal Combustion” is from a series of fern paintings that grew increasingly colorful. The objective here was to suggest a fern afire. I often use neologisms in my titles, creating a new word or using an existing word in a new way. I work mostly in pure hues and enjoy exaggerating contrasts, painting the negative space, and letting the watercolors flow. I select my pigments before starting, often using analogous complements; neutrals are created by wet glazing with complementary colors. Too much preplanning inhibits my motivation, so I intentionally employ a combo of improvisation and control, a strategy with options.”

SPM:

I would like to congratulate not just all of the 2019 Award winners but all those who submitted paintings to this year’s exhibition. David Lobenberg, our wonderful Juror, said that this was the most difficult show he had ever juried as the paintings were all amazing and varied. When I walked into the gallery, it was like walking into the center of a rainbow, the colors were so breathtaking and vivid, and yet they were balanced by the subtle colors of earthly landscapes. Thank you especially to Sharon Green, our Mid-Atlantic Chair and Dana Kleinsteuber, our Awards Chair, Brenda Kidera, our Catalog Designer, all of our incredibly generous Award Donors, all of the many hardworking Members and Volunteers, and Anne Burton and BlackRock Center. It truly “takes a village” to bring this Exhibit together.

Sincerely,

Sherry

BWS Awards for Baltimore County High School Artists

In an effort to encourage more artists of our younger generation to paint in watercolor/watermedia or to at least explore the medium, the BWS Board has formed a High School Outreach Committee.

The first step in our high school journey was the presentation of two "BWS Awards for Excellence in Watermedia" at the 33rd Annual High School Art Exhibit held at Goucher College, May 30, 2019. Our choices were Bienn Bagalso of Eastern Technical H.S., who also won the overall "Best in Show" and "Peoples Choice" Awards, for his ink and watercolor triptych "The Three Wise Monkeys" and Kahlea Branch of Parkville H.S. whose "Mother of All Murders" watercolor also won an overall Honorable Mention.

The future is in good hands.



Opportunities

Harford Artists' Association

Pictures at an Exhibition
Harford Artists' Gallery
Bel Air, MD
artinharford.org

Entry Deadline: August 1, 2019

Member News

Denny Clarke had two of his paintings, "Lobster" and "Calm Harbor," juried into the West Virginia Aqueous exhibit in Parkersburg, WV.

Annie Strack is teaching workshops in watercolor and acrylic painting at the annual Art of the Carolinas hosted by Jerry's Artarama in November, and she will be conducting live painting demonstrations on the trade show floor during the expo.

Angela Lacy's painting "Red Umbrellas" was accepted to the National Watercolor Society's 99th International Exhibition, October 3-November 17. The exhibit will be at NWS Gallery in San Pedro, CA. "Sudden Downpour" was accepted by juror Mike Bailey for the Missouri Watercolor Society's International Exhibition, June 15-July 27 at St. Louis Artist's Guild in St. Louis, MO.

Kay Fuller has become active with the Annapolis artists' community. She currently has works hanging at BWI airport and at "What's Up" headquarters with the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, at Maryland Hall with the Annapolis Arts Alliance, MFA at Gallery B, and in the Bowie City Hall Gallery.

April Rimpo received the Robert Wilcox Patron award for her painting "The Perfect Ride" in the Pikes Peak International Watermedia Exhibition. Her painting "Full Swing" was selected by juror Ingrid Albrecht for the Illinois Watercolor Society's Small Waters Exhibition.

DeEtta Silvestro won the Winslow Homer Award for her painting in the Missouri Watercolor Society 2019 International Exhibition.

Plein Air Exhibit Reception

A reception has been added to the schedule for this show. Please join us on Saturday, July 27th, from 2-4pm.

Irvine Nature Center
11201 Garrison Forest Rd.
Owings Mills, MD 21117

Exhibit dates: July 1-August 30, 2019

Reception: July 27, 2-4pm
Pick up: September 1, 10-11am

For any questions, contact David Drown, davdrown@comcast.net, 410-971-9769

Member Discount Codes

Airfloat: airfloatsys.com
20% discount with code BWCS at checkout

American Frame: americanframe.com
5% discount with code Alliance2018 OR
free shipping on orders over \$99 with code Alliance99
(may not be combined)

Welcome New Associate Members

Carol Brody of New York, NY

Patricia Browne of Columbia, MD

Hilary White of Strasburg, VA



Baltimore Watercolor Society
 April Rimpo
 14032 Howard Road
 Dayton, MD 21036-1020



Dated Material

**Baltimore Watercolor Society, a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization
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Visit the BWS website at www.baltimorewatercolorssociety.org
 For member event registration and directory, go to bws.wildapricot.org

Member News

BWS members may submit a 60-word announcement gratis to be listed under the heading "Member News." Images will be included as space allows. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication date, and may be edited for length or clarity. Please e-mail (preferred) your submissions to the Editor at joanna@joannabarnum.com or mail to Joanna Barnum, 21 Haven Ave., Abingdon, MD 21009

Advertising Rates

Display ads are published for the benefit of the BWS member or business who is placing the ad at the rates below, content & fee due by the 15th of the month preceding publication date.

Quarter Page (3 1/2w x 4 3/4h) \$50

Business Card (3 1/2w x 2 1/4h) \$25

Contact the Newsletter Editor at joanna@joannabarnum.com for details.



In Memoriam
 Kristrina Hayala