

28<sup>th</sup> Annual

2015

# Women's Works



The Winners

Northwest Area Arts Council  
March 12, 2015 through April 25, 2015

The Northwest Area Arts Council and the Old Court House Arts Center

**Present:**

*THE 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL* **Women's Works**  
*International Art Show*

***March 12, 2015 through April 25, 2015***

JUDGE:

Jane Sassaman

JURORS:

Kate Bowen

Laura Kina

Cara Megan Lewis

*The Winners Are...*



***First Prize (\$500<sup>00</sup>)***

***Three Graces, Number 3***

*Alexandra Bloch*

*Raleigh, North Carolina*

*Oil – 30" x 15" x 0"*

Alexandra Bloch uses a clean and sparing style to create realistic and naturalistic images of figures and forms existing in everyday life. Patiently applying oil paint to canvas and pencil to paper, she creates the illusion of nature's space, light, and form on a two-dimensional surface. Her primary inspiration is the human figure. Its lines, gestures, colors, and expressions offer an infinite array of stunning subject matter. Alexandra is also inspired by the stark contrasts of light and dark, and tones found in nature and still life arrangements. A lifetime of study and travel has allowed Alexandra to see some of the finest art and spectacular natural vistas in the world informing her vision and perspective. Mindful of life's chaos, Alexandra makes fresh and simple imagery offering the viewer a retreat for the eye and spirit. Often her figures and still life are contemplative glimpses of a simple scene rather than a wide view of a jumbled world.

***\$2500<sup>00</sup>***



***Second Prize (\$300<sup>00</sup>)***

***Bury My Demons***

*Bronwyn Elkuss*

*Chicago, Illinois*

*Hand Stitched Embroidery, Applique and Quilting – 17" x 19" x 0"*

My formal training is in sculpture. But I was excited to discover that hand stitching was becoming a valid fine art medium. This is a process both complex and contemplative and it lends itself to personal and sometimes perilous imagery. I first explore my imagery and compositions with drawings and sketches. The final work is embroidered, appliquéed and quilted entirely by hand.

***\$975<sup>00</sup>***



***Third Prize (\$200<sup>00</sup>)***

***Twilight Mill***

*Cindy Vondran*

*Rockton, Illinois*

*Digital Photograph – 18" x 14" x 1.5"*

I enjoy fine art digital photography because it blends science with art. There is much more to the process than simply taking a photo. The first step happens in the camera. I strive to look beyond the obvious, always searching for something fresh and unusual to photograph in a creative way. During the post-processing stage, I construct an image using digital darkroom tools. I employ artistic principles along with my creative vision to produce digitally enhanced images, resulting in works of art that merge the natural world with advanced technology.

***\$350<sup>00</sup>***



***Founder's Choice (\$125<sup>00</sup>)***

***Frederic Chopin Dream***

*Kelly Blevins*

*Pittsburg, Pennsylvania*

*Charcoal on Paper – 50" x 72" x 0"*

I am a 2 dimensional artist combining the oddities of philosophies, politics and the nude body. The body of work I produce is generally large in scale to create clear, strong statements in relevance to universal concepts related to human nature to create a specific presence. Each drawing starts by applying charcoal powder with a large brush for basic shape and composition. Thereafter, an eraser and a charcoal pencil are used to develop a realistic representation of my visions.

***\$5000<sup>00</sup>***



***Gallery Choice (\$125<sup>00</sup>)***

***Altered Soul***

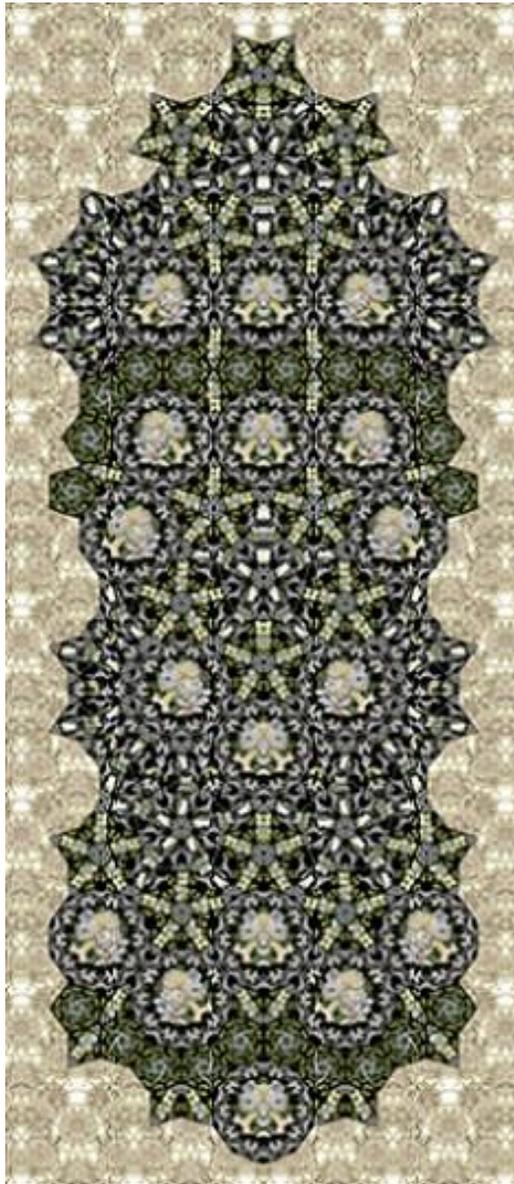
*Paula Peacock*

*Longmont, Colorado*

*Mixed Media – 12" x 6.5" x 9.5"*

From the first time I applied paint to brush to canvas the process struck me as magical. It fills me with a sense of wonder and gives me the ability to translate an inner vision to a 2 dimensional reality. I use the "Old Masters", my own life's experiences and the experiences of those close to me as my source of inspiration. My sole purpose when painting is to celebrate the form, color, and exquisite design we see around us every day and often take for granted. I strive to portray ordinary objects with an emotion and sensuality, rich richer-than life colors, a touch of elegance, and a provocative glow with inter-plays of light. Working primarily in oils and in the manner of realism, I work to reflect a combination of layered symbolism with a touch of subtle wit in the style of the classical table top still life. My works involve simply staged contemporary subject matters with results that I hope are thought provoking yet peaceful to the eye and mind.

***\$1875<sup>00</sup>***



***Artistic Merit (75<sup>00</sup>)***

***White Girih***

*Anna Chupa*

*Allentown, Pennsylvania*

*Acid Dye on Silk – 51" x 20" x 0"*

Anna Chupa is an Associate Professor in the department of Art, Architecture and Design at Lehigh University and teaches Digital Photography, Video, Experimental Animation and Web Design. Anna Chupa documents the communities in New Orleans that celebrate St. Joseph's Feast day, as well as Vodun altars and ceremonies. Recent work is influenced by Islamic tiling patterns and Mudejar architectural ornament in southern Spain. Her digital photography, textiles and mixed media installations have been exhibited in China, France, England, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and throughout the United States. Anna received her Master of Fine Arts degree in Photography at the University of Delaware and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies at Dartmouth College.

***\$1400<sup>00</sup>***



***Artistic Merit (\$75<sup>00</sup>)***

***Shaman***

*Francine Gourguechon*

*Chicago, Illinois*

*Glass Mosaic Sculpture – 22" x 14" x 10"*

The MOSAIC SCULPTURES are found objects that I encrust in art glass, stones, sea creatures, bullet shells, ball bearings, semi-precious stones and other materials I source from a million different places and it is an integral part of my art process. The forms pertain to the body such as a torso, head, chest and chosen for their inherent beauty of shape and intriguing presents. The human body as art and body decoration appears in every culture and is used for seduction, ritual, social standing and threat. My body art sculptures are inspired from this cultural phenomenon and the forms and materials that surround me in my studio.

***\$2300<sup>00</sup>***



***Artistic Merit (\$75<sup>00</sup>)***

***Nested***

*Jennifer Ross*

*Saint Charles, Illinois*

*Acrylic, Eggshells, and Aspen Branches – 26" x 31" x 6"*

I grew up surrounded by art and in the painting studios of my mother and grandfather. I began to follow in their footsteps but found that life presented some detours and I found I could make a good living working in art galleries, selling the artwork of others and doing framing design. But the desire to create my own art continued to grow. In 2008, I decided to try painting in acrylics, inspired by a collection of antique prints. When this initial painting was completed, I began to understand what it was which had moved me: A clutch of birds' eggs in a nest represented members of a family, a symbolic family portrait! My mother and grandfather had been portrait painters. Now, I was honoring my artistic roots. The first egg painting was a beginning for me as an artist. I continue to be inspired by the visual symbolism of bird's nest and eggs and groupings of birds, "family portraits" of what we all hold dear, our homes and our loved ones.

***\$800<sup>00</sup>***



***People's Choice***

***Neon Study #1***

*Cathe Ladner*

*Ingleside, Illinois*

*Oil – 14" x 11" x 0"*

I credit my artful life to God and to my Grandmother who had great taste but little money. She loved life and creating beautiful things from discarded objects. I started drawing at a young age but did not try painting till my thirties. As a self-taught artist I most enjoy whimsical still life in oil. With world conditions being as they are, my goal is to paint a prettier reality.

***\$1500<sup>00</sup>***