

***Easels in Frederick* Culminates in Artist Awards and Art Sales**

[June 25, 2015] The art of plein air painting was celebrated by national, regional and local artists during the weeklong *Easels in Frederick* event, June 15-20. A total of 96 paintings created by professional and hobbyist painters alike were purchased by the general public in just seven hours.

The event commenced with the arrival of thirty national, award-winning juried artists who traveled from 19 states to capture local scenes on canvas and compete for cash prizes of \$14,500. During four days of intense painting in locations throughout Frederick County, the juried artists produced more than 100 works of art that were displayed, judged and sold to the public at the widely attended Grand Exhibition, June 19-20 at the Wm. Talley Recreation Center in Frederick. Award-winning Winterpark, FL-based plein air artist, Larry Moore served as the 2015 awards judge at the Grand Exhibition and Quick Draw contest.

Some 400 guests attended the Friday evening ticketed Private Collector's Preview where they had the opportunity to be among the first to see and purchase the completed artwork. A record 70 paintings by juried artists were sold during the course of the two-day Grand Exhibition.

The Private Collector's Preview culminated in Mr. Moore's announcement of the award winning paintings. Jason Sacran, Magazine, AR, was named the \$5,000 Grand Prize winner for his painting "South & Carroll," an oil painting depicting an historic residence located at that downtown intersection. The painting also won the Artist's Choice award, determined by his fellow juried artists participating in the 2015 competition, with a \$500 cash prize sponsored by Frederick Town Realty.

Wyatt LeGrand, Bloomfield, IN, received the Second Place award and a \$2,500 cash prize for "Wastler's," an oil painting of the downtown barber shop, sponsored by

Everedy Square & Shab Row. Thomas Jefferson Kitts, Portland, OR was the recipient of the Third Place award and \$1,000 cash prize for his painting, “Parked for the Season” sponsored by Frederick County Bank.

Neal Hughes of Moorestown, NJ, received the Best Use of Light award and a \$1,000 cash prize for his painting “Church Street at Night,” sponsored by Yvonne and Jim Reinsch. Brienne Brown, Julian PA, was the recipient of the County Landscape or Town Outside Frederick City award and a \$1,000 cash prize, for her railroad painting, “Sharing Memories,” sponsored by Bach & Associates, Inc., REALTORS®.

Tim Kelly’s view of downtown Frederick won the Architectural Subject Frederick City award and a \$1,000 cash prize for, “June 15 Slipping Away,” sponsored by Proffitt & Associates, Architects. The oil painting, which offers a view of downtown Frederick at sunset, was also named the Collector’s Choice award, with a \$1,500 cash prize sponsored by PNC, as well as the People’s Choice award with a \$1,000 cash prize sponsored by Woodsboro Bank.

Honorable Mention awards were also given to John P. Lasater, IV, Siloam Springs, AR, for his oil painting “Transformed by Downpour” a view of downtown during a rainstorm; Jason Sacran, Magazine, AR, “Frederick Sunset;” Charlie Hunter, Bellows Falls, VT, “The Ghost of George Bellows Visits the Frederick Fairgrounds and Escapes Unscathed;” and David Lussier, “Quiet Reflection,” a view of the College Avenue bridge at Baker Park.

Preview attendee Chase Tydings was the recipient of the Collector’s Reward door prize painting, “Two Friends,” by John Caggiano of Rockport, MA, represented by the Delaplaine Foundation.

More than 90 local, regional and national artists competed in Saturday morning’s Quick Draw Contest, which required participants to complete a drawing, painting or other two-dimensional work during a two-hour time period. The event, which took place on five

blocks within the historic district, was open to artists of all skill levels. More than 50% of those participating were from outside Frederick County, many of whom were from other states. A Youth Quick Draw Contest for artists ages 8-17 took place concurrently at Baker Park.

Tim Kelly won First Place and a \$500 cash prize in the adult juried competition for his oil painting, “Shab Row Portal,” sponsored by Carmack Insurance Group, State Auto Insurance Companies. Second Place, with a \$250 cash prize, was awarded to Wyatt LeGrand for “Alley in Frederick,” sponsored by Michael Campagnoli. An Honorable Mention award was also given to Thomas Jefferson Kitts for his oil painting, “Back Alley Way.”

Winners of the adult non-juried competition were: First Place, David Finnell, recipient of a \$500 cash prize, sponsored by The Hendrickson Group at Morgan Stanley; Second Place, Tara Will, recipient of a \$300 cash prize, sponsored by the Griffin Art Center; and Third Place, Paul Tooley, with a \$200 cash prize, sponsored by the Wm. E. Cross Foundation. The Linda Postelle Award, with a \$250 cash prize, was awarded to Rebecca Rieser, sponsored by Holly Postelle Late, Karen Postelle Bowman and Steve Bowman. Honorable Mention awards were given to Juliya Ivanilova and Alfonso Ong.

Winners of the Youth Quick Draw contest were: The Linda Postelle Award – Grand Prize, Stephen Mills recipient of a \$75 prize; First Place High School award, Melanie Bambrick, recipient of \$50 prize; First Place Middle School award, Sarah Burrier, \$50 prize; Second Place Middle School, Megan Chang, \$20; and First Place Elementary School, Emma Chang, \$50 prize. The Linda Postelle Award was sponsored by Holly Postelle Late, Karen Postelle Bowman and Steve Bowman. The Frederick Arts Council and the *Easels in Frederick* planning committee sponsored the remaining prizes.

Easels in Frederick is made possible in part through the generosity of local corporate and private sponsors. *Easels in Frederick* is a 501(c)(3) organization, which makes contributions and ticket purchases tax deductible within the limits of the law. Partial

proceeds from art sales benefit local programs. Other supporting partners include: The City of Frederick, Downtown Frederick Partnership, Frederick County Landmarks Foundation, Frederick County Public Libraries and the Tourism Council of Frederick County. For more information about the event, visit the event website at: easelsinfrederick.org.

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