



Easels in Frederick Culminates in Artist Awards and Art Sales

[June 26, 2016] Frederick County's spectacular scenery was celebrated during the 6th annual *Easels in Frederick*, June 13-18, 2016. Approximately 200 paintings created by professional and hobbyist painters alike, capturing local outdoor views, were displayed and made available for sale to the public.

Throughout the week, 30 juried artists from 12 states painted local towns and rural areas, competing for \$14,500 in cash prizes. In that time the artists produced more than 120 paintings that were displayed, judged and offered for sale at the Grand Exhibition, June 17-18 at the Wm. Talley Recreation Center in Frederick. Award-winning Charleston, SC-based plein air artist Dee Beard Dean served as the 2016 awards judge.

Some 400 people attended the Friday evening Collectors Preview opening of the Grand Exhibition where they had the opportunity to be among the first to see and purchase the completed artwork. A total of 46 paintings by the juried artists were sold during the course of the two-day exhibit.

The Collectors Preview culminated in Ms. Dean's announcement of the award winning paintings. John Lasater, IV of Siloam Springs, AR, was named the \$5,000 Grand Prize winner for his oil painting "Walkersville Relics," a landscape set in a railroad yard. The prize was sponsored by PNC Bank. Lasater's landscape vista "Rocky Springs Road" was a recipient of the Artist's Choice Award, an honor selected by his juried peers that he shared with two other artists.

Brienne Brown of Julian, PA, received the Second Place Award and a \$2,500 cash prize for "Antiques Bridge" a watercolor view of Carroll Street. Vladislav Yeliseyev, Saratoga, FL, was the recipient of the Third Place Award for his watercolor, "Train Depot," set in Walkersville. Yeliseyev's painting "Church Street" received the People's Choice Award as well as the Collectors' Choice Award. Those three awards had a combined cash total of \$3,500.

Patrick Saunders of St. Louis, MO, received the Best Use of Light Award and a \$1,000 cash prize for his oil painting "Light Dancing at the Clapp Barn." Jason Sacran of Magazine, AK was the recipient of the Best County Landscape or Town Outside Frederick City Award and a \$1,000 cash prize, for his oil painting "The Forgotten Stacks," a view of a hay field.

Patrick Lee's nocturne of downtown Frederick, "Good Night Frederick," won the Best Architectural Subject Frederick City Award and a \$1,000 cash prize. In a tie, Patrick Lee's and Patrick Saunders' paintings shared the Artists' Choice Award.

Honorable Mention awards were also given to Chad Smith of Durham, NC, for his oil painting "Brunswick Station," a view of the passenger depot, and to Daniel Mondloch of St. Cloud, MN, for his watercolor, "Soft Light Walkersville."

Approximately 75 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 fixed time period. The event, which took place on five blocks of Carroll Creek Linear Park and Patrick Street, was open to artists (age 8+) of all skill levels.

Patrick Lee received top honors in the Quick Draw Juried Artist Division, with Patrick Saunders receiving the Second Place Award. Charlie Hunter and Katie Dobson Cundiff both received Honorable Mentions.

Winners of the Adult Non-juried Division were: First Place, Michael Kotarba; Second Place, Seth Hill; Third Place, Jason Witte; Local Color Award, Wooshim Min; Honorable Mentions, Tara Will and Ann Schaefer.

Winners in the Youth Division were: Best in Show, Stephen Mills; First Place (13-17), Zoe Poppert; First Place (8-12), McKenna Dunn; Second Place (13-17), Megan Chang; Second Place (8-12), Emma Chang; Third Place (13-17), Nadia Plaschke; Third Place (12-8), Katie McClatchie; Honorable Mention, Dolan Polglaze.

Easels in Frederick is made possible in part through the generosity of local corporate and private sponsors and community partners. *Easels in Frederick* is a 501(c)(3) organization. Partial proceeds from art sales benefit local art-related programs. For more information about the event, visit the event website at: easelsinfrederick.org.

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