

Red. Blue. Pastel? Yes! Casselberry Art House Online Exhibit

Overall Commentary:

Thank you for the privilege to view and judge this wonderful exhibition in the extraordinary medium of pastel. There is so much variety in subject matter, use of technique and artistic insight. My hat goes off to each and every artist who has work in this exciting exhibition. Inspiration abounds here!

—Robert K. Carsten, psa

Comments on Award Winners Judge: Robert K. Carsten, psa

Best in Show

Chaos en Rose Suzanne Zielinski

Expressive, imaginative and jubilant, this painting uses color, line and shape in playfully descriptive and decorative ways. The energy conveyed through the quick, spontaneous application of pastel is extraordinary, seemingly contagious. The “voice” of the artist is clearly present and spectacularly unique. Here is a work of art that can elevate one’s mood with its unfettered joy of expression.

Second Prize

Evening Prayers Orit Reuben

The powerfully evocative sensation of color in this painting is captivating and expresses both mood and time of day. With its well-defined center of interest associated with the area of darkest value, the trees at lower left act in important counterpoint to balance the composition.

The arrangement and treatment of the tiny figures is both appealing and important compositionally. This painting puts into practice the adage about a great painting: Unity with variety and variety with unity.

Third Prize

Channelside Helen Mathysen Dobbins

With its rich color played against dark values, the serene mood and sense of space in this painting is most engaging. But here, it is the artist’s wondrous ability to capture a palpable sense of atmosphere that is perhaps most deserving of admiration. The off-center channel and the diagonals of the red violet mist/clouds greatly contribute to the effectiveness of the composition.

Merit Award

Order Emerging from Chaos, Revisited D. R. Shelley

I find geometrical abstraction in pastel to be all too rare. This painting is both ambitious and very well done. The dispersion of color throughout this complex arrangement of shape and line is excellent. The unifying blue background assists in organization as does the general spiraling movement of close-up, larger forms at left to smaller, more distant forms at right — an area of rest from intense activity. Marvelous!

Merit Award

Social Distancing Susan Kiss

Adeptly capturing the individual character of each of the figures, this painting displays an enjoyably lighter side regarding its theme. The depiction of posture, clothing and their stares is marvelous. A low, not quite straight-on vantage point adds significantly to the composition encouraging us, the viewers, to study these two people-watchers.

Merit Award

Always a Bright Spot Sharyn Lightfoot

A beautifully poetic, tonalist work, this painting captures mood in spades. Soft edges, closely related values and muted colors are masterfully handled coupled with an interesting application of pigment for the leaves on the foreground trees. The balance of visual “weight” between the right and left sides is extremely skillful. Indeed, a remarkably sensitive and impressive work of art.

Merit Award

He Knocked on Dali's Door Jo-Anne Sherburne

An intriguing work that adeptly relates portrait to background, artistically and psychologically. Even without its evocative title, there's a mysterious, implied narrative, assuredly beckoning the viewer. The figure is pensive, engaged in reverie. Selectively soft edges on the figure against the background “painting” serves to meld the figure and the painting as if all exists in memory or dream. Simply enchanting!