

THE JUDGES STATEMENT

Dear Artists,

I have been deeply honored to serve as the judge for the current exhibition organized by the Albany Area Arts Council. The submissions highlighted exceptional creativity alongside remarkable technical skill and profound sincerity, which deeply inspired me. My years spent working in the art world made this experience both fulfilling and a humbling reminder of the abundant, exceptional talent in our area.

Importantly, this exhibition revealed to me our community's extraordinary range of vision and voice, and it has been a profound privilege to engage with your artwork. The judging process for this exhibition was based on principles of fairness and curiosity while showing deep respect for every artist's creative journey. My background as an art historian and museum professional enabled me to assess artworks objectively while maintaining a commitment to excellence across various media, styles, and genres.

All submissions underwent assessment according to multiple essential criteria.

- A strong and clear concept
- Technical command of artistic principles in compelling and coherent composition
- Originality and risk-taking
- A striking, visual impact based on the content, form, and execution of the finished work

The selection of media displayed an impressive range, as well as enthusiastic energy, through various mediums, including painting and multimedia, sculpture, and photography. The themes explored by the artists reflect the richness and complexity of contemporary life in the South and beyond. These themes also represent identity formation, memory reflections, transformation, social challenges, personal grief, and demonstrations of resilience and hope.

The bravery required to present your artistic creations, knowing they will undergo evaluation, deserves recognition. Each artwork received my careful attention because I understood the process, as someone who has created art. Artists should know that selection outcomes stem from the subjective requirements of any judging process rather than evaluations of their artistic value. The selection process occurred over two separate rounds, adhering to the specified criteria. The second round narrowed the final selections. The artists' identities were kept anonymous throughout the process.

The quality of artistic output from local and regional creators leaves me with a profound sense of admiration. The displayed works demonstrate originality and depth through exacting artistic standards, showing that our local communities produce influential art that should be celebrated and supported.

Please, continue. Your voices are essential.

This experience provided me with immense joy. I extend my deepest gratitude to the Albany Area Arts Council for their invitation to this regional artistic celebration, as well as to all of you who entrusted me with your work.



Andrew James Wulf, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Albany Museum of Art





SOUTHWEST GEORGIA
REGIONAL FINE ART
EXHIBIT & SALE



THE AWARD WINNERS

Botini	Best In Show	<i>Reborn</i>
Patrick Foster	1st Place - Painting & Mixed Media	<i>Melpomene as Muse</i>
Karla Noble Lewis	2nd Place - Painting & Mixed Media	<i>Gigi's Boys</i>
Miriam Howard	3rd Place - Painting & Mixed Media	<i>His Eye is on the Sparrow</i>
Jean Eaton Gay	Honorable Mention - Painting & Mixed Media	<i>Rosa's Delight!</i>
Gary Dyes	1st Place - Photography & Digital Art	<i>Solitary Pause</i>
Lisa Lofton	2nd Place - Photography & Digital Art	<i>Afterlife Wisdom</i>
Steve Arnold	3rd Place - Photography & Digital Art	<i>Winter's Lodge</i>
James Malphrus	Honorable Mention - Photography & Digital Art	<i>Swamp Sandhill</i>
Trenton Tye	1st Place - Sculpture & Ceramics	<i>Vestiges Of The Marsh King, Throne</i>
Yahriel Yahu	2nd Place - Sculpture & Ceramics	<i>"See Me As I Am" Stackable Vessels</i>
Marie Salter	3rd Place - Sculpture & Ceramics	<i>Dress In Layers</i>
Karla Noble Lewis	Honorable Mention - Sculpture & Ceramics	<i>What came first?</i>

