



IOWA ARTISTS

Since 1970



In This Issue

- President's Messagep1**
- Board Membersp2**
- New Board Membersp2**
- Online Show 2023 Winnersp4**
- 2023 State Show Resultsp6**
- 2023 Regional Show Resultsp7**

Please add the new Membership Chair Stephanie Swilley's and Newsletter Editor Lori Schmidt's email to your contacts list so you receive all pertinent information sent by email from Iowa Artists –
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President's Message.....by Danna Fruetel

Dear Iowa Artists,

Another Iowa Artists State Show has been completed. Awards have been handed out, and encouraging critiques have been given by our judge Rick Stewart. Most of the Blue Ribbon Regional Show pieces were there, and it made for an amazing show to see. Thank you all for coming to the Newton Botanical Center and sharing your art with the community. The community will be welcoming the show again next year on April 27, 2024. Be sure to mark your calendars. I have written down the suggestions made to make it an even better show than it was. More information regarding State Show results and pictures are in this newsletter.

I suspect that it will be quiet in the Iowa Artists' world for the next few months. We have a few workshops planned. Please email me at dfruetel@gmail.com for more information on those. They will be posted on our website soon. I have shared them on the group Facebook page also.

It's time to start producing new works of art for next year's shows. As you all are aware, if you have entered a piece of art in any of our shows, you can't enter it again. We want our artists to be forever in the zone of creativity and show us new things.

I would like to thank my outgoing board members for the help and friendship that they have given me during my time on the board. Thank you, Delayne Segar, Deanna Skokan, Ly-Lee Konopasek and Jolene Hulsing. Now I wish to welcome to the board, Treasurer Kelly Schwartz, Membership Chair Stephanie Swilley, and our two new Members At-Large Diane Tough and Bob Peterson.

Happy painting during the beautiful summer months.

Danna Fruetel
 President - Iowa Artists



New Board Members

Board Members

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Diane Tough

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Bob Peterson

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Treasurer - Kelly Schwartz

About me

Married for 24 years with 2 teenage children. From Ames, Iowa.

I have 2 bachelor's degrees, the first from Iowa State University with distinction in Family Services, aka Social Work. While staying home raising my children, I worked on a second Bachelor's degree from Buena Vista University, graduating with honors in accounting. I have been working for Bergman CPA Tax and Accounting for 7 years. I have experience with all areas of general accountancy and office management. My main work focus is the management of all payroll and payroll taxes for our entire organization's clientele. I am very computer literate and a quick study on new software. I regularly utilize business financials in the course of my work and assist with balancing them for our clients.

About my art

I grew up heavily interested in art and primarily drawing. Toward the end of high school; however, I retired my pen because I believed I was not good enough. I vowed never to draw again, and I didn't for a full 20 years. Now over the last few years, I have re-emerged and begun to explore the artist inside of me. I enjoy drawing with ink and engaging in small details. I have become interested in the way lines intersect and knot and enjoy the spatial challenge of intertwining them and untangling them on paper. I enjoy putting hours and hours into the smallest of details without knowing what my lines will evolve into on the page. I draw freehand with a .35 tip artist pen to achieve the detail level I need, and I do not plan or sketch. I let the image create itself. I let my lines evolve, and I continue to grow and explore and it pleases me. I have found that THAT is what truly matters.

I am now seeking to grow both artistically and as a person who can share myself and my art. My art journey is one of overcoming my own self doubt and allowing others to see me, yet not allowing their opinions of my art to define me. I want other young people to pursue their passions while they can.

New Board Members

Membership Chair - Stephanie Swilley

I am a self-taught mixed-media artist living in Waterloo with my husband, two boys, and studio cat. My work primarily features the female figure and nature through abstract realism, exploring my relationship with myself, my children, my community, and the natural world. My goal is always to create something beyond what I see with my eyes, reminding myself and others to stop, sit with ideas and experiences, and look beyond the surface. The idea of a cohesive body of work chafes at my need to not be boxed in, so I impose no limits on myself, style, or mediums (though I am partial to pastels, charcoal, and graphite).

My works have been accepted into juried exhibitions and shows in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, and Iowa, and I have been a member of Iowa Artists since putting down roots in Iowa during the pandemic.

In my professional life, I have a 15+ year career in recruiting and resume writing. I currently work remotely for a small business out of Illinois where I am also responsible for marketing content creation, website management, and strategic planning in addition to IT recruiting and professional resume writing. I love working with people to find their superpowers to help them shine.

Member At-Large (Position 1) - Diane Tough

Website: www.dianetough.com

Bio: Artist Diane Tough received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art from Central College in Pella, Iowa. She taught art in the Des Moines School District for two years before starting a career in computers at the State of Iowa and then IBM. Upon retiring from IBM, Diane resumed her interest in art and has studied with various artists in pastel, oils, acrylic and watercolors.

Medium: Pastel, watercolor, acrylic, oil

Subjects: Landscapes and Cityscapes with or without figures, Abstract Explorations

Style: Mostly Representational, some Abstraction

Technique:

Pastels: I am drawn to the pure pigment aspect of pastels, and it gives a richness and shimmer to mark making that is unlike any other. It often entices me to push the mark making and the color in my representations. I start with with an underpainting or underdrawing to define the basic shapes and values. Then I work from large shapes to smaller details and refinements. Given the powdery nature, I spray lightly with a fixative before framing.

Watercolor: The fluidity and lightness of this medium draws me to find connected shapes and lost edges to let the pigments flow and intermix into combined shapes. Finding a connected mid-value opportunity lends itself to facilitating that fluidity and connectedness. In watercolors the process is light to dark.

Oils/Acrylic: The richness and buttery-ness of oils makes it incredible for portraits and landscapes. Like pastel and it's mark-making, oils and the brushwork adds to the depth and intensity of the painting. The process of working large shapes to small, dark to light is very similar to pastel. Acrylic allows for modeling and textures that make abstraction really exciting.

New Board Members

Member At-Large (Position 1) - Diane Tough (continued)

Awards and Commissions :

Amana Fresh Paint - Honorable Mention
Paint the Fair - Second Place
Mainframe Studio Plein Air - First Place
Marla Baggetta Master Class Invitation
Drake University - Commission for Collier Scripps Hall
Bluff Strokes - Juried Plein Air Event Acceptance

Member At-Large (Position 2) - Bob Peterson

I was on the committee and corresponded with Jack Olds, the founder of Iowa Artists, when the organization was forming in 1970-1971. I was chairman of the 2014 Iowa Artist State Show in Cedar Rapids. Over the years I enjoyed coordinating four Region 8 shows. A few years ago my painting, Behind Montauk, was awarded "Best of Show" at Iowa Artist's state show in Ames.

I'm an artist who's drawn and painted since I was 6 years old. The vast majority of my fine art works are very, very realistic subjects with full color. I always strive for compositions that are strong and simplified, whether they are for paintings, drawings, etchings, Abstract, or Realistic.

My 40-year professional career after college was: Mechanical Engineering Design, Graphic Artist, Photographer, and Technical Writer for Evergreen Packaging, an international manufacturing company.

Facebook Iowa Artists Artworks Administrator - Ann Carothers

Welcome Ann Carothers as our the new administrator for the private Iowa Artists Artworks Facebook group. This is not a board position but is an important role, communicating the activities of the Iowa Artists.



The following Regions need Regional Show Chairs for our 2024 season: Region 2, Region 7, Region 8 and Region 9.

Some computer skills are important to be able to perform this position.

It takes all of us working together to make our shows so outstanding.

Contact Rebecca fineart@rabeccajaynehennessey.com
or Danna dfruetel@gmail.com

2023 Winter Online Show Becomes Teaching Tool

By Deanna Skokan

The 2023 Winter Online Show was a huge success! There were 63 artists from every region represented who entered either a 2D or 3D piece of art. Master artist Scott Krohn from Minnesota was our judge this year, and he had a very difficult time making his selections as the entries were of high quality. Scott critiqued not only all of the winners' art but shared how he scored each piece entered so that each individual artist could learn about the strengths and weaknesses of their entry. He also passed on a bit of knowledge about the Rule of Thirds when used to make stronger compositions. It was a great learning tool for those who entered the Online Show!

Please help Iowa Artists congratulate the following winners for their amazing art!

2D:

Luis Guzman, Region 4, Spell, 16½"x24¼", oleum sobre (oil) on plywood took 1st Place.

Denice Peters, Region 4, Memories For Sale, 16"x20", pastel took 2nd Place.

Rodney Forslund, Region 6, UP Train Passes Colo, IA, 16"x40", acrylic on deep canvas took 3rd place.

Lydia Sproull, Region 3, Eliot With Miniature Horses, 20"x16", oil took Honorable Mention.

3D:

Arnold Jirsa, Region 9, Indian Headdress, 20"x16"x10", freehand-cut and shaped heat-colored steel took 1st Place.

Kathryn Roe, Region 11, Elaboration, 39"x10", fiber: applique, hand embroidery, needle felting and thread sketching took 2nd Place.

Robin Hamer, Region 2, Man Made, 30"x24", copper repousse took 3rd Place.

Grace Pratt, Region 5, The Escape, 8¾"x13¼"x13¼", ceramic and mixed media took Honorable Mention.

The 2023 Winter Online Show can be viewed at: <https://www.iowaartists.us/winter-online-show-2023.html>.



Luis Guzman, Region 4, Spell, 16½"x24¼", oleum sobre (oil) on plywood took 1st Place in the 2D Division.



Arnold Jirsa, Region 9, Indian Headdress, 20"x16"x10", freehand-cut and shaped heat-colored steel took 1st Place in the 3D Division.

2023 State Show Winners



From left:

- **Richard Heggen Award** - Susan McCulley - Trio
- **Best in Show** - Mary Johnson - Gray's Lake
- **Doris Frandsen Award** - Susan Baer - Bentonsport River's Edge



Blue Ribbon Winners (1st), from left:

- Sandy Rittgers - Winter Blues
- Janet Drake - Golden Creek
- Beppie Weiss - Ella



Red Ribbon Winners (2nd), from left:

- Tracy Edens - I'll Fly Away
- Robert Miklo - Foursquare
- Danna Fruetel - A Little Bridge



White Ribbon Winners (3rd) from left:

- Christine Laue (not pictured) - Flamingo
- Anthony Franklin - Teamwork
- Kelly Schwartz - Chaos



Honorable Mention, from left:

- Dianne Liepa (not pictured) - Summer Drive
- Jim Updegraff - Back Room, Yoder Brothers' Store
- Carleen Hon - Spring Beauties



Peoples Choice Award:

- Melissa Van Egdom - I Herd That!

2023 State Show Winners Continued



Hilda DeBruyne 3D Award
Susan Kuennen - Fibber

Regional Winners

**Pictures are not shown for 7 because some members did not have a signed social media release form. If they wish to sign a release they can contact Stephanie Swilley, Membership Chair, for the form.*



Regions 1 & 4 Red Ribbon Winners:

- Gigi Nelson,- Hey, What's on Your Mind?
- Theresa McKee - Todd
- Theresa McKee - Molly

Regions 1 & 4 Blue Ribbon Winners:

- Susan McCulley - Trio
- Melissa Van Egdom - I Herd That!
- Ron Erickson - Christmas Ornament



Regions 1 & 4 White Ribbon Winners:

- Jan Edmonson - Before the Snow
- Deb Mechler - Koffee Klatch
- Haley McAndrews - Winter in April



Regions 1 & 4 Honorable Mention Winners:

- Mary Heikens - Northwest of Spencer
- Ron Erickson - Centerpiece
- Nancy Schoenewe - Spring Cardinal



Regional Winners



Regions 1 & 4 People's Choice Winner:

- Susan McCulley - Lynx Kitten



Region 2 - Blue Ribbon Winners:

- Sonja Johnson - Cow Pasture
- Carol Jo Smidt - Prairie Wetlands
- Margaret Askelsen - A Rose for a Friend



Region 3

Blue Ribbon Winners:

- Mary Ann Gloe - Tree Line
- Susan E. Kuennen - Finding Your Zen
- Rebecca (Becky) Schoenfeld - Branwen-Beautiful Raven
- Jim Updegraff - Back Room, Yoder Brothers' Store



Region 3

Red Ribbon Winners:

- Marcia Kruse - Having Coffee on the River
- Alethea Grocholski - Shattered Melting Heart
- Susan E. Kuennen - Fibber
- Nicole O'Brien - Elkader Plein Air

Regional Winners



Region 3:

White Ribbon Winners:

- Bev Hamann - Leaves 1
- Marlene Michel - Camel Ride
- Bev Hamann - Earth-Toned Gourd
- Marcia Kruse - New Chore Help

Honorable Mention Winners:

- Jim Updegraff - La Petite Franc
- Arthur Geisert - Unknown Artwork
- Rebecca (Becky) Schoenfeld - Antheia-Garden
Goddess of Flowers, Blossoms, Vegetation & Love
- Mary Ann Gloe - Over the Moon

People's Choice Winner:

- Mary Ann Gloe - Forest Understory



Region 5

Blue Ribbon Winners:

- Doyle Wilson (3D) Bear's Claw
- Dianne Liepa (2D) Summer Drive
- Mary Johnson (2D) Gray's Lake
- Deanna Skokan (not in person) (2D) Prickly
Pear de Light
- Carleen Hon (2D) Spring Beauties

Regional Winners

Region 5

Red Ribbon Winners:

- Flo Hayes (Husband in photo) (2D) Mountain Pass
- Doyle Wilson (3D) Classic Ogee
- Sharon Scandrett (2D) Trinity
- Delayne Segar (2D) Old Friends
- Mary Johnson (2D) Floating on the Breeze



Region 5

White Ribbon Winners:

- Doyle Wilson (3D) Wooden Quilt
- Linda Schanus (2D) Daffodils
- Tanya Wilhite (2D) Wonder
- Dana Quick-Naig (not in person) (2D) Dunbrody Abbey
- Mary Johnson (2D) Summer Stroll



Region 5

Honorable Mention Winners:

- Judy Wallace (2D) Blooming Cactus
- Deanna Skokan (not in person) (2D) Moon Over Ha Ha Tonka Springs
- Carleen Hon (2D) Lobster Trap Buoys
- Tanya Wilhite (2D) Cardinal
- Tanya Wilhite (2D) Kingfisher
- Cleanne Lindholm (2D) AZ Splendor
- Kathy Strohl (3D) The Old Timer
- Delayne Segar (2D) Livi
- Delayne Segar (3D) Mrs Twillington Basketford



Region 5

People's Choice Winner:

- Mary Johnson (2D) Summer Stroll

Regional Winners



Region 6 Blue Ribbon Winners, from left:

- Kelly Schwartz - Chaos
- Danna Fruetel - A Little Bridge



Region 6 White Ribbon Winners, from left:

- Carol Wacha - Vernal
- Danna Fruetel - Rooted in Power



Region 6 People's Choice Winner:

- Carol Wacha - Vernal
- Douglas Sorem - Santee Sioux



Region 6 Red Ribbon Winners, from left:

- Patricia Kimle (not pictured) - Jacko: A Study in Tans
- Douglas Sorem - Jakey



Region 6 Honorable Mention Winners, from left:

- Douglas Sorem - Santee Sioux
- Jeanine Strodman - Spring in Hayden Lake

Region 7

Pictures are not shown because some members have not signed a social media release.

Blue Ribbon Winners:

- Julie Hughes - Between Seasons
- Judy Muniz - Sligo Creek
- Ann Olsson - Bailey II
- Sandy Rittger - Winter Blues
- Marion Wiley, At the Harbor, Oil
- Janet Drake, Golden Creek, Pastel

Red Ribbon Winners:

- Felicia Babb-Cass, En Pointe, Watercolor
- Nancy Barsic, The Wading Pool, Paper cut & Ink
- Jan Bernhard, Out of the Mist, Pastel
- Marion Boyer, The Western Front, Wood
- Cynthia Demkiw, Niagara Tributary, Acrylic
- Rowena Hardinger, Line Dance, Watercolor
- Paula Schrad, Sunny Morning, Watercolor

White Ribbon Winners:

- Cynthia Demkiw, Composition in Blue, Acrylic
- Janet Drake, Iowa River, Charcoal
- Bonnie Erickson, Rocky Nook, Oil
- Barb Grabill, Early Winter, Watercolor
- Judy Muniz, Iowa Winter, Oil
- Judy Muniz, Nasturtium, Pastel
- Bonnie Smith, Winter's End at the Old Barn, Acrylic

Honorable Mention Winners:

- Linda Carney, Star of Wonder, Mixed
- Bonnie Erickson, Frosty Morning, Oil
- Deanna Graas, Kenzie, Oil
- Rowena Hardinger, Scenes on IA #20, Watercolor
- Timothy Kuhlmann, Saga Palm (Detail), Acrylic
- Bonnie Smith, Summer Sunset, Acrylic
- Diane Turnage, Sojourn in Shadows, Oil

Regional Winners



Region 8

Blue Ribbon Winners:

- Robert Miklo, Foursquare
- Beppie Weiss (not pictured), Ella
- Alda Kaufman, After the Bloom
- Tracy Edens, I'll Fly Away

Red Ribbon Winners:

- Pamela Hiatt – Color and Light
- Bob Peterson – Abstract #8
- Donna Gibson – August Storm
- Jeff Allen – Oranges and Lemon

White Ribbon Winners:

- Beppie Weiss (not pictured) – Waterloo in Bloom (also won People's Choice)
- Laretta Kelley – Mandarins and Tea
- Ellen Henkels – Home to Buenie
- Janet Kratzer-Stephan – Restful Landscape (art and artist not pictured)

Honorable Mention Winners:

- Robert Miklo – Sugar Bottom Road
- Janice Bell – Waiting at the County Fair
- Alda Kaufman – At The Farm
- Diane Rattner – Feline Attitude



Regional Winners

Region 11



Ly-Lee Konopasek - Barn Kitty (Blue Ribbon), Sleeping Beauty and Opening Day (both Red Ribbons)



Susan Baer - Bentonsport River's Edge (Blue Ribbon)



Patsy Murphy - After the Storm (Blue Ribbon)



Patsy Murphy - Purple White Iris (Red Ribbon)



Dennis Johanson - Light in the Dark (White Ribbon)



Dale O'Connell - Cherry Blossoms (White Ribbon)



Jennifer Hess - Clear Minded Mornings (White Ribbon)



Jennifer Hess - Unknown (Honorable Mention)



Susan Baer - Art at the Museum (Honorable Mention)

Regional Winners

Region 11



Charles Goering - Below the Falls (Honorable Mention)



Nash Cox - Rusty Russell (People's Choice)

Region 12



Blue Ribbon Winners:

- Anthony Franklin - Teamwork
- Pamela Lander - Woman Bathing
- Christine Laue - Flamingo



Red Ribbon Winner:

- Carol Gunn - Shadow Dance
- Shadow Dance - Peoples Choice
- Care Connet - Enso
- Christine Laue - Scene on the River Li



White Ribbon Winners:

- Jane E. Shank - Scooter at the Marina
- Sidney Gibson - After the Storm
- Carol Gunn - Basking in the Light



Honorable Mention Winners:

- Anthony Franklin - Unbroken
- Kathleen Almelien - End of the Day
- Cathryn Layer - Clouds