

**Bayside Historical Society Juried Art Exhibition**  
**Criteria for Judging Art Exhibitions**  
**Neill Slaughter**  
**2025**

This year my co-juror Bob Mueller and I judged the **Bayside Historical Society** art competition online, as has been done in recent years. Artists take note; as more art exhibits are judged online, it's imperative to submit one's artwork with the best photo image(s) possible as well as all the written information. In the future, please take this into consideration before submitting to a juried art exhibition. As always, we wish to thank Laura James for inviting us to judge another exhibit and we compliment the artists who submitted their art. Having carefully reviewed all the artwork, my co-juror and I created a variety of categories, deciding the fairest manner to judge the art submitted is to compare and contrast art from each category separately, thereby being able to award more artists instead of less. Further explanation of how we judge is found below.

There are certain judging criteria, which I would like to share with those artists who are participating in this exhibit, especially those who have not participated before. As a practicing artist and professor for over four decades, I feel strongly that creating art is intrinsically linked to interpretation. All visual artists become inspired by something, which is generally motivated by visual stimuli, and then interpreted as well as communicated visually. Regardless of the medium or whether the art is abstract or representational realist in its approach, my colleague Bob Mueller and I tried to be as objective as possible while judging this exhibition. Certainly, we value skill and technique, however, ultimately, we look for an honesty and truth in the artwork. During a careful analysis, in the best art there is a transcendence, whereby the viewer is emotionally moved or taken to another place by the artist's interpretation. We think it is important that the artist's intention is communicated as well. If we as viewers sense or recognize an inconsistency in intent or approach then the work suffers. Sometimes the artist's idea is better than the execution because of lack of skill or technique. Other times the skill is visually apparent, but there is no transcendence beyond merely copying a photograph or even photographing something that doesn't transcend the obvious. Still other times the end result is cliché or mimics other artists and there is nothing original in the interpretation. We recognize that in this exhibition there are artists with more experience or training than others, nevertheless certain artworks stand out as worthy of recognition in a variety of categories ranging from painting (oil & acrylic), drawing, watercolor, mixed media, printmaking, collage, 3-D, and photography including digital. In each category one artist has been judged the BEST and if warranted, other artists received HONORABLE MENTION. As in prior years, artwork from Bayside High School students was submitted online and presented in its own section. Although not judged for awards, the quality was such that we wished to provide some written commentary complimenting the students and the instructor who elicited such consistently strong art from these students. That commentary will follow the award winners listed below.

## **PAINTING**

### **Domingo Carrasco, "Tell Me What You Dream About", Acrylic, 49x36" Best Painting Award**

Although the style of this large acrylic abstract painting reminded the judges somewhat of Picasso, the self-imposed limitations within the compositional structure utilized by the artist creates a bold image full of graphic impact that commands the viewer's attention. The highly stylized figure, somewhat camouflaged and strategically orchestrated within that vertical format coupled with the equally stylized and simplified yellow bird and red flower shapes create an engaging unique image to ponder. Clearly this is a case of where less is more!

### **Sarah Case "Veil of Silence", Oil, 24x24" Honorable Mention**

The manner in which those multiple arms and hands grab the pale veiled figure indicates a suppression of free speech. This social commentary concerning our politically challenging times makes this particular painting poignant and arresting.

### **Paula Press "Beach", Oil, 16x20" Honorable Mention**

The spontaneous gestural quality in the handling of two figures sitting on a beach creates an energetic fresh feeling in this painting sketch. The light value on the shoulders coupled with the brushy mark making that is somewhat awkwardly handled, nevertheless conveys a sense of bright sunlight and an immediacy as if painted quickly on location.

### **Charles ViVona "Trees in Fields of Yellow", Oil, 16x20, Honorable Mention**

In this somewhat unassuming modest painting, a quiet harmony emerges through the yellow Z shape of flowers winding its way throughout the composition from the background into the foreground. The warm and cool color combinations found within the foreground tree trunk coupled with the overall texture permeating the entire painting creates a unifying consistency.

### **Renie Morris "A Full House", Acrylic, 24x36" Honorable Mention**

An inventive use of the cat shapes creates an effective abstract configuration. The complimentary yellow-blue color scheme incorporating intuitive use of negative space interweaves the eye through the composition.

## **DRAWING**

### **Jaideo Singh "Quelling of the Hungry Libertine", Pencil, 11x14" Best Drawing Award**

A fantastical satanic image conjuring a macabre expression from a very imaginative artist's mind. This uniquely personal drawing is ironic because despite a repellent image, the hideous monster is captivating, drawing in the viewer to inspect details of this most creative configuration.

### **Henry McQuillan "I'm Your Man Series-Robert Mitchum" Charcoal, 18x24" Honorable Mention**

This highly stylized charcoal illustration indicates movement frozen in time and although it resembles David Bowie dancing, more than Robert Mitchum, it appears inspired by Robert Longo drawings, with strong graphic impact from the theatrical light and shadow patterns.

**Jian Kang Qiu** “City Lights Under Manhattan Bridge”, Pastel, 18x12” **Honorable Mention**

A vibrant and energetic use of pastel coupled with a strong structural composition utilizing the two buildings as framing devices on either side of the bridge, create a dynamic urban scene at dusk.

**Chih Ping Tsen** “Fishman”, Color Pencil, 8x10” **Honorable Mention**

There is a quiet sense of diffused light conjuring a hazy atmosphere as the fisherman casts his net. Although shading is fairly minimal it is effectively utilized, such as under the bow of the boat and most effectively within the elliptical shape of the net spreading out over the water.

**WATERCOLOR**

**Inna Kupchenko** “She Wolf”, Watercolor, 16x12” **Best Watercolor Award**

The artist appears in control with competent handling of the watercolor medium, mixing wet into wet technique and selected sharp focus found within the wolf’s eyes, whiskers, toe nails and fur tips. The manner in which the wolf cautiously enters the scene from the left makes for a well-balanced composition.

**Janice Gordon** “Hydrangeas, Early Autumn”, Watercolor, 13x18” **Honorable Mention**

This is simply a well rendered horticultural configuration in harmonious muted tones.

**Gail O’Donoghue** “The Girls”, Watercolor, 12x14” **Honorable Mention**

A whimsical depiction of arbitrarily colorful llama heads, apparently fresh from the punk rock salon of this artist’s imagination. In this very bold and brushy wet into wet watercolor the artist seems to have discovered the absurd abstraction found in reality, assuming she began from a photo, which would not have had that crazy coloring.

**3-D/Sculpture**

**Giovanni Gelardi** “Lost Innocence, Children’s Hell”, Assemblage, 19x13x5” **Best 3-D Award**

A most imaginative altarpiece with a serious social commentary message. Even though there is an undercurrent of whimsy, as evidenced by the gumball dispenser, children’s alphabet blocks, lollypops stuck in the toy soldiers’ bazookas, and little plastic dolls, all of this is juxtaposed by the overwhelming aspects of war, alluding to the third world, particularly Africa, where children are often kidnapped, trained and forced to fight in a terrorist regime. Ironically, our first world society’s indifference is reflected in the innocence as depicted by white plastic baby dolls.

**Fred Adell** “King Cobra”, Sculpture 10x10x14” **Honorable Mention**

The expressionistic handling of the paper-mache’ Cobra snake creates a menacing quality as it appears to be killing another snake or some other serpent.

## MIXED MEDIA

**Christina Vandian** “A Study of Hope & Melancholy” Mixed Media, 24x18”, **Mixed Media Award**  
An imaginative image filled with complexity in style and technique, including allusions to Art Nouveau and Vienna Secessionism, combining intricate layering and texture creating a visual depth that almost transforms the paint to appear like interwoven metallic material.

## PRINTMAKING

**Barbara Vinitz** “Fall Leaves” Monoprint, 14x11” **Best Printmaking Award**  
A complex yet subtle monoprint achieved through creative color and layering with the darker leaves overlaying a lighter multi-hued pattern that appears to be laid down first.

## COLLAGE

**Barbara Silver** “Taking Time Out”, Collage, 10.5x18.5” **Collage Award**  
A clever configuration of collaged photos creating a complex interior scene filled with visual surprises.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Sharon Whinston** “Colors of a Cow Heart Pre & Post Putrefaction” **Best Photograph Award**  
This artist thinks beyond a typical snapshot image. In this diptych the elapsed time element becomes her purpose, revealing a certain beauty discovered in decay.

**Willy Airaldi** “3 AM”, Photograph, 12x12” **Honorable Mention**  
An arresting monochromatic nocturne utilizing a square format comprised of a window façade and a fire-escape, combine to create a patterned configuration, leaning towards abstraction.

**Walter Roche** “Porchfest”, Photograph, 8x10” **Honorable Mention**  
This well composed photo creates a yin-yang quality of positive-negative balance in which the horizontal format is split into complimentary parts, a dark square highlighted with a white hat and white bottom verses a light vertical part with a dark hat and dark bottom.

**Sheila Golden** “Flowers and Leaves with Shadow”, Photograph, 14x11” **Honorable Mention**  
Artfully composed in a classical style with strategic lighting, the delicate flower casts a shadow, becoming an integral part of the overall composition and is counterbalanced by a black pipe.

**Trisha Chang** “Brightness of Life”, Photograph, 10x8” **Honorable Mention**  
An effective composition of multicolored leaves surrounding the negative space of bright sky.

**Emerson Chen** “Rebirth in Decay”, Photograph, 18x12” **Honorable Mention**  
An Asian aesthetic present; smooth mushroom caps juxtaposed by coarse decaying tree bark. Additionally, the image title reinforces how life can spring forth in the most unusual places.

## **BAYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL ONLINE WINTER EXHIBITION 2025**

My co-juror Bob Mueller and I wanted to applaud and commend the Art Teacher(s) for the consistently high quality of creativity evident in all the artwork we saw online in this winter exhibition. We witnessed a very eclectic mix of various media ranging from drawing and painting to collage and digital art. After seeing the wide range of art being created at Bayside High School we feel there remains hope for society if this next generation of young artists are able to receive such excellent training at Bayside High School.

Even though this separate exhibit was not part of our judging duties, we feel some should be named for the excellent art we saw in this online exhibition. We particularly want to applaud the efforts of Natalie N. for not only her sensitive drawing skills in "I'll Be Here", but also for the sentiment of what is being conveyed visually in this beautiful, caring and touching (pun intended) drawing of the young hand holding the aged hand in a hospital bed. The humanity conveyed in this drawing is really wonderful! The painting "A Commuters Scene" by Keira S. exhibits gutsy brushwork in this very cleverly composed group of subway riders being divided by the metal subway car bar equally dividing the composition. "Ethereal Fantasy" by Victoria P. is another painting, this being a surreal looking portrait with a painted face whose expression commands the viewer's attention. There is a great sense of humor in the very imaginative "Frog Gumball Machine" by Caitlin L. Both "Exchange" by Jiayi C. and "Melt Away the Heart" by Tong Xin Z. have strong graphic impact in these black and white drawings. There are also several digital animated examples that are worth noting: "Blossom" by Katherine K. is a surrealistic image of two girls wrapped in vines, especially the one taking a selfie without a face. The light and shadow is quite effective in "Birthday" by Emily L. Also effective is the cracked mirror and different tints and shades of red in "Identity" by Jessica C. The stylization in handling of the two animated figures in "Lingering Clouds, Frayed Flowers" by Tong Xin Z, is compelling as is the collage also titled "Identity" by Hao L. which is really a wonderful abstract configuration. All the other artwork is visually interesting as well, although those listed above really are, in our humble opinions, the most visually striking.