

Newburyport Art Association
Winter Members Juried Show, Part II
Acrylic, Fine Crafts, Mixed Media, Pastel & Photography

AWARDS

**Sam Sargent Best in Show
for work in Mixed Media**

Robin Thornhill, *Resuscitation (Grief: Stage 5)*



Without looking at the title I was deeply moved by this painting.

An encaustic painting involves a combination of heated beeswax and pigment. Through the melting, drying, scraping of the wax and the addition of other materials, the painting goes through a series of changes, allowing the artist to work fast through layers and almost in an impulsive way.

I feel that through its process of adding all of the elements such as the gold leaf, rose petals, tea leaves and more, the artist was working through her emotions and making this an intimate and emotional journey. I usually do not like to read titles because I want to personally connect to the painting. I must say that once I saw the title and what was conveyed to me by its organic color and texture, it validated my assessment thus making this painting worthy of Best in Show.

**Institution for Savings Award
for Best in Acrylic**
Susan Cole Kelly, *Conflagration*



My first reaction was one of destruction, fire rampaging through land and dissipating into the sea. Color red so symbolic of fire, blood, inferno and yet the painting kept enticing me to stop and look more and then my eye focused on that small line of turquoise and it suddenly eased my initial reaction and saw the beauty of the passionate energy that these colors and texture created. A very energetic painting indeed!

**The Newburyport Development Award
For Best in Fine Crafts**

Doug Johnson, *Summerfield*



At first glance I thought it to be a painting done in a pointillist technique reminiscent of Georges Seurat, and then I realized that each dot was a bead of glass. Awe struck by its intricacy and beauty, I feel it to be a labor of love for the artist. Such an accomplishment! I can't imagine how many beads the artist needed and metaphorically speaking I can't help not to think that each of these small beads represents each of us in this universe and how powerful we are when all united together.

**The Strem Chemicals Award
For Best in Mixed Media**

Terry Del Percio-Piemonte, *One Day*



This painting invited me from far away and had an immediate emotional response. As I walked closer I became more aware of its complexity. Marks, scratches, deep rich glazes, created a play of light allowing me to want to explore more and so I found myself immersed into history as if looking at the Caves of Altamira and back in the Paleolithic era. The artist is able to achieve all this in a non-objective way with just color, uneven textures and play of light with darks. A very evocative painting.

The Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank Award

For Best in Pastel

Lisa Regopoulos, *Summer's Out of Reach*



On a snowy day, this painting brought warmth to my being and I imagine it will have the same impact on other viewers. Beautiful autumn day light emanating through the sun dunes. The artist is able to convey this feeling in a very direct and confident way.

Matter Communications Award

For Best in Photography

David Piemonte, *Bubbleology*



With its simplicity and abstract qualities this photograph invites you in and then you start seeing bubbles within bubbles and you can't help but to feel young again and to be transported to a fun day outdoors.

Newburyport Art Association

Honorable Mention Award

For Work in Acrylic

Cara Gonier, *Connect*



The marriage of land, sea and sky all connected together in such subtle, peaceful and harmonious way!

**Newburyport Art Association
Honorable Mention Award
For Work in Acrylic
Brecca Loh, *Undulation***



The essence of a landscape? Perhaps a strip of water bordered by palm trees? The beauty of an abstract painting is for each of us to see or better to “feel” something different. The artist accomplished all of it in this provocative painting.

**Newburyport Art Association
Honorable Mention Award
For Work in Mixed Media
Tricia Jones, *A Visit to the Old Neighborhood***



Small windows of color peeping through the subtle texture make this a cheerful and suggestive painting.

**Newburyport Art Association
Honorable Mention Award
For Work in Pastel
Susan Ellis, *Wading***



Small but yet with impact, the figure walking through the water is masterfully rendered.

**Newburyport Art Association
Honorable Mention Award
For Work in Pastel
Ann Gillespie, *October Song***



A concert of color so welcomed on a late Fall day. The artist managed to create warmth and glow!

**Newburyport Art Association
Honorable Mention Award
For Work in Photography
David Stone, *White Boat on the Shore***



The white boat brings a glow of light in this beautiful photograph so reminiscent of an Andrew Wyeth painting, the paper texture enhances the quality and feeling of the photograph.



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Juror's Statement

It is a difficult task to be a juror, so much comes into play and I realize some of my decisions are going to upset some and make others happy. Each juror is different and with certain expectations. What I can tell you about the way I juried this exhibit is that it was based on that instant “Wow” and compelling impression factor. A “Wow” work of art compels me to start looking at the piece up close whether it is the color, composition, texture and/or subject matter. The time allocated for a juror to judge a show is limited thus it is crucial that the “Wow” effect is immediate.

For the artists whose work was not chosen, I hope that it is not taken in a negative way. This “pass” should be used to your advantage by pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone and creating more compelling work.

I want to stress also that some works in this particular exhibition needed help with framing. Any frame that does not enhance or compliment your work is doing it a disservice. Be careful when choosing frames, simple and neutral are usually more appealing and will not detract or compete with your art work.

I am encouraged by the quantity of good art I have seen in these last 2 exhibits. I must stress the impact that art has on our society. It brings peace, beauty, energy and as Picasso said, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life".

Congratulations to all of you, keep evolving, keep taking chances and challenge yourself to do always do your best.

Nella Lush
Contemporary Artist Painter &
President, National Association of Women Artists, Massachusetts Chapter