



SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
MUSEUM OF ART

Biennial



Yosemite by Nancy Hershberger



SAMA LORETTO

02.03.23 - 04.16.23

Selection Juror's Statement

A juror serves as the lens through which submissions are focused to form an exhibition. Today that means poring over hundreds of pieces viewed on a computer screen. It is sometimes a challenge to perceive the fullness of real-life works viewed through a screen, good as mine is, since art is inevitably altered by the limitations of pixels or by the photographer's skills. As a juror for this Biennial exhibition at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, I was impressed by the creativity and excellence that I saw in submitted works, screen or no screen.

As anyone would be, I was subject to being swayed by first impressions, but combing through all the submissions several times over, I worked to see beyond my own values and predispositions to find the impetus for each artwork: What was it that the artist felt needed to be shown? And then: How effectively was that impetus realized in this piece? The best, in my eye, were those works whose materials were far from impediments, where the familiarity of the artist with her colors, his medium, their concept, was like a direct extension of the artist's mind, showing us exactly what they wished us to see.

The range of works submitted was of course wide – including paintings, drawings, and photographs; metal, wood, polystyrene, and ceramic sculpture; fiber, computer imagery and appropriated objects – with a commensurate range in styles and skills. I wanted to reflect as much of this variety as I could in the selections, while keeping an eye on the “realization” part of the equation. I sought to give more credence to works that showed intensive involvement in the piece, over those which seem to shine with skill alone – meanwhile keeping in mind that skill itself is a laudable, tangible result of long involvement over time.

Today, we celebrate these creators and their art, as well as those that were not included in this exhibition for various reasons. My goal was to identify the works that were most brilliant in their own right, despite any attempted “pixel sabotage” or partiality. In the end, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is fortunate to have so many talented artists in its reach, and I was honored to be chosen to confirm that in this year's Biennial exhibition.

Thomas Paquette

Meet the Jurors

Thomas Paquette Selection Juror

Thomas Paquette has been a full-time artist for over three decades after finishing his MFA degree in painting in 1988. His paintings have been featured in more than sixty solo exhibitions in museums and prominent galleries in New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Washington, DC, and elsewhere around the country. Paquette graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in painting from Bemidji State University in 1985, and earned an MFA on a full fellowship from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. He was awarded a three-year residency-fellowship in Miami Beach through the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts after finishing his degree. Other artist-residencies include American Academy in Rome, Aegean Arts and Cultural Exchange, Blue Mountain Center, Millay Colony, Vermont Studio Center, and Acadia, Yosemite, and Rocky Mountain national parks.

Solo museum exhibitions were installed at Dubuque Museum of Art, Erie Art Museum, Evansville Museum of Art and Science, Georgia Museum of Art, Minnesota Marine Art Museum, Quick Center for the Arts, The Rockwell Museum, Watermark Art Center, Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and Wildling Art Museum. Forty of his paintings have been selected to hang in nineteen U.S. embassies on five continents, including in the cities of Rome, Brussels (NATO permanent collection), Athens, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Taipei, and Santiago. His works are included in numerous private, corporate, museum and state collections, and have been featured in numerous publications. Thomas Paquette lives on the edge of the Allegheny National Forest outside Warren, Pennsylvania.

Awards Jurors

Dr. Pete Skoner

Dean of the School of STEAM, Professor

Dr. Peter Skoner was appointed the founding Dean of the School of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania in 2018. Among the major changes in STEAM since then was the creation of the Center for Fine Arts to promote and highlight academic programs and opportunities for individual students to participate in the performing and visual arts. Dr. Skoner has served on accreditation and certification visiting evaluation teams for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA Division I), and Pennsylvania Department of Education. Before his academic career, he was a mining engineer with Bethlehem Mines Corporation, a research fellow with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and a research observer with the Pittsburgh Public School System. He received his B.S. degree in mining engineering from the Pennsylvania State University, M.Ed. from Saint Francis College, and M.B.A. and Ed.D. from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is also a Registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Jessica Campbell

**Director of the Center for Fine Arts
Assistant Professor of Visual Arts**

Jessica Campbell pursued her arts education at Seton Hill University, where she graduated with a B.F.A. in 3-D media. Jess worked at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) for almost 20 years managing the Arts-in-Education programs and Museum Healthcare Partnership. She was responsible for the artist residency programs in school and community settings in southwestern PA and delivery of professional development to train teaching artists and classroom teachers to design and deliver quality arts residencies. In 2021, Jess graduated with her Master of Education degree at Saint Francis University. As a professional artist, Jess captures moments in time around her home or places traveled. She works mostly in acrylics but enjoys other mediums including oil, watercolor, and photography. Jess, her husband, Carl, and their son, Parker reside in Carrolltown. Jess is active with the Carrolltown Public Library, serving as Board President. She is also the secretary for VFW Ream Miller Post 7783 Auxiliary in Saint Benedict.

Awards Jurors

Julie Hart

Julie Hart is a senior at Saint Francis University studying to become a physician assistant. She has also enjoyed taking art courses throughout her academic career. Her interest in the arts started at a young age, and her passion grew through taking art classes both inside and outside of school. She loves to create in any capacity, but some of her specific interests include printmaking and acrylic painting. Three pieces of her work were recently displayed among other students in the "Exceptional Collection" exhibition at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. In addition, she was awarded the Visual Award from the Center for Fine Arts at Saint Francis this past Spring.

Julia Scagline

Julia Scagline is a senior physician assistant student at Saint Francis University. She has been interested in art since she was a young child. She continued studying and improving her art skills by taking art courses throughout her schooling career. Her favorite art classes were the ones that she took at Saint Francis University under the instruction of Jessica Campbell. Three paintings of hers were displayed in the "Exceptional Collection" exhibition at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in the Spring of 2022. While medicine is her focus, she still makes time for her passion of art.

Awards



Best of Show

Yosemite

Nancy Hershberger

First Place

Encroachment

Robin Gibson



Awards



Second Place

My Paint Box

Robert D. Huckestein

Third Place

Locked Out

Jeff Mathison



Participating Artists

Skip Allen
Michael Allison
Shana Andrews
Michael Begenyi
Robert Bowden
Rex Chronister
Anne Clark
Andrew Neil Dierks
Ron Donoughe
John R. Dorchester
Norman Ed
Earl Elliott
Peter Frantz
Susan Nicholas Gephart
Robin Gibson
Steven Gilbert
Helen Gorsuch
Kasey Hagens
Dave Hammaker
Nicholas James Harris
Kathryn Hayes
Elizabeth Heller
Nancy Hershberger
Patricia Hilton
Lynn Hocker
Barbara Hollander
Robert D. Huckestein
Fred D. Hummel
Clare J. Kaczmarek

Participating Artists

Debbie King
Janet Klingbeil
Beth Kukucka
Kevin Kutz
George LaVanish
Joe Lucas
Carol Lusk
Jeff Mathison
Anni Matsick
Dai Morgan
Jim Murphy
Nancy Ntelios-Sarangoulis
Abraham Onkst
Zone Patcher
Jack Puglisi
Cynthia Ake Rabold
George Radeschi
Ana Raiola
Jill A. Rupinski
Joseph Ryznar
Lisa Seligman
Brian Sesack
Elizabeth Sickles
Kristine Sickles
Gregg Silvis
Matthew Stich
James Tobin
Nadine Toth
Teresa DallaPiccola Wood
Kara Zuzu

Biennial Sponsors

Best of Show

Barry H. Newborn

First Place

Chantel Ventura

Second Place

Dr. Magdi & Karen Azer

Third Place

Dr. Owen K. & Marian Morgan

People's Choice

Barbara O'Brien

Program Sponsor

Fred Danziger

Reception Sponsor

SFU School of STEAM

Exhibition Sponsor

Benzel's Bretzel Bakery

Upcoming at SAMA Altoona

The Donald M. Robinson Photography Biennial

Accepting applications now through March 12, 2023

\$2,000 for First Place Award
\$1,000 Second Place Award
\$750 for the Third Place Award

Juried by Dan Leers, Curator of Photography
at the Carnegie Museum of Art



APPLICATION DEADLINE
MARCH 12, 2023

ACCEPTED MEDIA
PHOTOGRAPHY
MAXIMUM OF THREE WORKS
DIGITAL FILE SUBMISSIONS: JPG FORMAT
SUBMIT TO: SUBMISSIONS@SAMA-ART.ORG
APPLICATION FEE: \$25


SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES
MUSEUM OF ART



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About SAMA

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA) is a community art museum founded in 1976. SAMA successfully operates the nation's longest-running museum satellite system with five museum facilities in the southwestern Pennsylvania cities of Altoona, Bedford, Johnstown, Ligonier and Loretto. The Museum maintains a permanent collection of more than 7,500 works of local, regional, national and international artists. SAMA's five museums offer award-winning education programs, special events, and approximately thirty to forty exhibitions annually.

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