

The Florence County Museum proudly presents

2021 PEE DEE REGIONAL ART COMPETITION


of florence

January 28 - April 9



JUROR'S STATEMENT

It was a great honor and challenge to jury the 2021 Pee Dee Regional Art Competition.

As an artist myself, I came to the selection process with subjective preferences and a specific knowledge base about art making. As a lifelong student, teacher, and lover of art, I often put those interests aside in order to open myself to other voices. I deeply value the work of artists whose intentions and approaches are often starkly different from my own.

More important than what I brought as a juror, however, is what the applicants contributed in terms of their concerns. We are living in difficult times. The prevailing theme of the submitted work was the pandemic, with sub themes of vulnerability, loneliness, and requiem. These themes guided my choices, and form the organizing core of the show.

I believe artworks establish their own internal criteria for success or failure. I looked to the artist's intent and whether that intention was realized effectively. This is not always easy when I am viewing work out of context. But I did my best to see the submitted work as fully as possible. I looked for artists who did not take their process, subject matter, or ideas of what constitutes "art" for granted. While adept and sensitive handling of materials is always important, I favored creative engagement over simple displays of skill.

I want to congratulate everyone for having the courage to submit works. I also want to encourage artists, especially those new to art making, to continue challenging themselves and putting their work out into the world. It was my honor to jury the show and select the award winners. I would like to thank Stephen Motte and the Florence County Museum for this opportunity.

Margaret Curtis
January 2021

FIRST PLACE



Julie Mixon
Envelop(e)
Hand sanitizer image transfer
Florence, SC

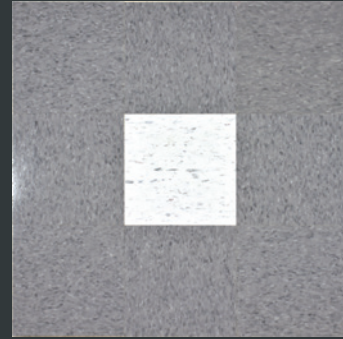
Mathematicians and scientists often talk about a proof or theorem as being “elegant.” An elegant theory is one that is imaginative yet economical; its beauty lies in its simplicity and universality. In other words, a good idea is aesthetically pleasing in itself. Julie Mixon’s piece, *Envelop(e)* possesses that quality. A simple folded paper envelope becomes a metaphor for motherhood. Whether the envelope is the mother’s body or her protective care, the good-enough mother shelters and delivers her child to the world outside. A simple idea, beautifully realized. And the medium of hand sanitizer transfer speaks to the particular concerns parents have in protecting children during the pandemic.

– Margaret Curtis, Juror

LIST OF WORKS



Kyla Allen
Star Blessed
Oil on canvas
Columbia, SC



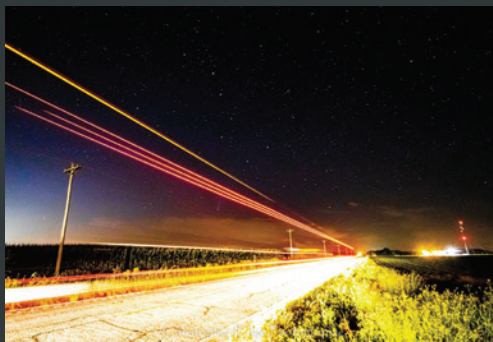
Triston Blanton
DaVita Dialysis Myrtle Beach, SC
VCT, VCT adhesive, and floor wax on birch panel
Johnsonville, SC



Jim Boden
Requiem
Oil on canvas
Hartsville, SC



Jan Chenoweth
LH-SOS 191
Various pigments on wood panel
Lake City, SC



Christopher Edge
Newwise Farewell Lightshow in Sumter County
Photography
Sumter, SC



Jennifer Edwards
Villa Capri
Acrylic on canvas
Florence, SC

SECOND PLACE



Jasmine Baetz
Wise Man (November)
Plastic, safety tape, tile clay, blood
Hartsville, SC

Jasmine Baetz's sculptural work *Wise Man (November)* brings to mind Meret Oppenheim's 1938 surrealist masterpiece, *Object*, or as it's better known, the *Fur Lined Tea Cup*. Both artists take a readily recognizable object and transform it through simple intervention into a swirl of uncomfortable and visceral associations. In both works, the body is not "everywhere you look," but "everywhere you think." The thought of drinking from Oppenheim's cup is an unpleasant one. In Baetz's piece, the first thought upon seeing the overturned traffic barrel is of a car wreck or collision of some sort, and with that, a whirl of associated feelings of vulnerability and danger. On closer inspection, the barrel is full of small holes. Is it buckshot? Or have the holes been meticulously gouged out? Some of the holes have been filled with a fleshy substance; they look like pustules. The wall text mentions plastic, safety tape, tile clay, and blood as the mediums used. An unremarkable utilitarian object is transformed into a metaphor for human fragility.

– Margaret Curtis, Juror

LIST OF WORKS



Dewey Ervin
Gonna Rain
Photography
Florence, SC



Gregory Fry
Divided We Fall
Serigraph with pearlescent inks
Florence, SC



Robert Garey
Homage to an Era
Oil on linen
Florence, SC



Douglas Gray
Negligentia
Saggar fired ceramics with encaustic medium
Florence, SC



Jean Grosser
Life and Death
Muslin, wood, brass, bullet, nails
Hartsville, SC



Roger Halligan
What Me Worry?
Steel, Portland Concrete products, Penetrol, paint
Lake City, SC

THIRD PLACE



Treelee MacAnn
X Marks the Spot
21 color silkscreen print
Myrtle Beach, SC

The serene summer woods in Treelee MacAnn's 21 color serigraph offer a counterpoint to the themes most artists are working with in the show. The mood of the print is quiet, understated. The woods are not the monochromatic chromium oxide green of summer but the tender golden green of spring, implying rebirth. As inviting as the scene is, entry will be difficult, however. Large trees lie across the foreground in thick slashes of raw sienna. Visual entry is further blocked by an "X" shape of criss crossed saplings. This print is technically exquisite: perfectly registered and veiled by the ghost of the screen itself.

– Margaret Curtis, Juror

LIST OF WORKS



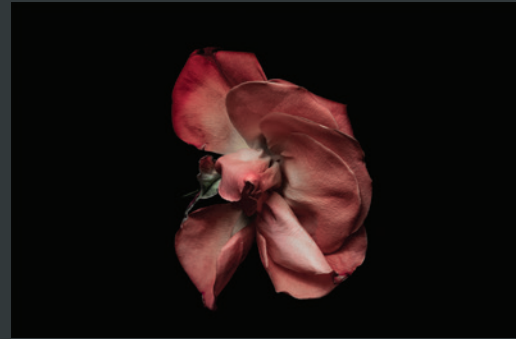
Uschi Jeffcoat
Study of Christina
Watercolor with gold leaf
Florence, SC



Mary Ellen Judge
Face Value
Acrylic, found objects, fibers
Florence, SC



Joshua Knight
Idle Hands
Oil on gessoed paper
Little Rock, SC



Heidi Lucket-Vaught
True to Form
Photography
Effingham, SC



Julie Mixon
We'll See (Family Images from COVID-19 Isolation)
Image transfer to wood
Florence, SC



Alyssa Reiser Prince
Canal
Acrylic on canvas
Hartsville, SC

HONORABLE MENTION



Alyssa Reiser Prince
Found
Oil on canvas
Hartsville, SC

Alyssa Reiser Prince's oil abstraction creates vivid physical sensations. In addition to the paintings warm light and deepening space, there's a sense of sound, a buzz or shimmer in the air, vibrations from heat. I feel an upward draw as if I'm walking up a sloping field of late summer tall grass and golden rod. I think of the spiritual vibrations and sense of sound in the paintings of Charles Burchfield, and the line work in the surrealist abstractions of Arshile Gorky.

– Margaret Curtis, Juror

LIST OF WORKS



Samantha Ross
Pizza! Pizza!
Digital Photography
Cheraw, SC



Sophia Shumaker
Untitled
Fabric, polymer clay, thread
Florence, SC

*



Ada Smolen-Morton
Vanitas of a Prairie Dog
Oil on canvas
Florence, SC

* Image detail



Chick-fil-A[®]
of florence

The Florence County Museum would like to express our gratitude to Chick-fil-A of Florence for sponsoring this exhibit. Chick-fil-A is a committed advocate for the Florence County Museum and the visual arts community. Without their support this exhibit would not have been possible.

Florence County Museum | 111 West Cheves Street | Florence, South Carolina
Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Waters Gallery | 135 South Dargan Street
Monday - Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

flocomuseum.org

