

Juror's Statement

It was an honor to jury the 2021 Northern Indiana Pastel Society's 15th Anniversary Show titled *Autumn Brilliance*. Changing roles from that of gallery curator to juror seemed, upon acceptance of this job, to be an easy one. And yet it was not. Curators are accustomed to seeing a show in its entirety, where each piece of art has a role to play in the larger picture. Choosing only 4 or 5 works out of the many beautiful pieces, proved challenging; developing criteria was key.

When jurying a show, one should review the work. How does the piece look from a distance? Does it pull the viewer forward, beckoning them to take a closer look? Composition, confidence handling materials, use of color and less tangible, emotional response to the piece. These are important factors in jurying art.

The artists' selected for recognition fulfilled something in all of the aforementioned criteria. "Morning Haze" by Avon Waters transports the viewer to an almost fantasy-like place through his use of color, capturing a foggy morning in the city. Kendra Nafzinger's "Into the Light" draws the viewer into the picture inviting them to take a stroll on a beautifully lit path on a cool autumn day. The forest scene created by Shandelle Henson in "River Birches on Juday Creek," features angles and geometry juxtaposed with the soft edges of foliage. One can almost hear the gentle sound of the creek. Outside the forest, Karen Jacob sets the scene for a perfect Midwestern day, in her piece titled "Cloud Nine". The balance between sky and land is a lovely ode to rural America. Lastly, Bridget D. Marcus' "European Bee-Eater displays a confidence in graphic shapes, vivid color and expressive movement.

It has been said that "creativity is piercing the mundane to find the marvelous." To all the artists who participated in this show, thank you for allowing me to jury some very marvelous art. Keep at it. The world needs to be less mundane.

- Amanda Ward, Gallery Curator at Fernwood Botanical Garden.