

KEIZER ART ASSOCIATION  
2021 WATERCOLOR SHOW  
KAREN AIELLO JUROR

The KAA Watercolor show was judged by Karen Aiello. Karen is an award-winning artist who has entered many KAA shows with gorgeous photographs and watercolor paintings. She grew up in Colorado. Karen and her husband, Bill, are members of Keizer Art Association and Karen, in the past, served on the KAA board.



**JUROR'S MERIT AWARD – “MELODY FOR MAMA”, Kathryn Decker**  
Beautifully detailed in its simplicity, this piece is a perfect vignette. The shadows behind the girl are strategic. We see the girl first and know she’s playing a flute without the primary focus being on the instrument. The background emphasizes the girl without swallowing her up and brings her into focus. Her skin tones and slight blush only add to the beauty of this work.



**THIRD PLACE – “SPRING DAY”, Cheryl Manhire**  
Soft spring colors with sharp definition is a great example of contrast and using ink with watercolor. This is a lovely painting that would be beautiful as a greeting card for spring celebrations of any kind.



SECOND PLACE – “*LIGHTNING ROCK*”, Dianne Lay

Textures abound in this piece. The atmospheric perspective is paramount, creating the illusion that the subject rock is almost at timberline on an equally high mountain across a valley. The shadows, the grasses, and the trees are extremely well done and the cracks in the rock simply add mystery to its age and origin. A really impressive painting.



FIRST PLACE – “*A GOOD BOOK*”, Kathryn Decker

The fabric, the details of the book, and the child’s expression speak volumes about this artist’s ability to use watercolor techniques effectively. The lack of background detail makes this painting even more powerful by keeping it simple with the focus on the relaxed comfort of the young reader. He is safe, warm, and protected. We could all benefit from this kind of relaxation! This is a well done and beautiful painting.



BEST OF SHOW – “*GRANDMA’S PRIDE*”, Kathryn Decker

Watercolor portraits are extremely difficult. This artist, however, has mastered the art on an amazing level. Everything about this piece epitomizes a great portrait. By using a wet-in-wet technique and blending soft shadows the baby’s skin comes to life. The hat and sweatshirt are done in such a way that the face is delicately framed and the subject becomes almost three dimensional. But, the eyes have it! The sweet vulnerability of this baby, the precious wonderment of his expression, the soul behind the eyes. There is more than paint that went into this showpiece!