

## BLACK WHITE AND GRAY SHOW AWARDS

The KAA Black White and Gray show was judged by Karen Aiello. Karen is an award-winning artist who has entered many KAA shows with gorgeous photographs and water color paintings. Karen and her husband, Bill, are members of Keizer Art Association and Karen, in the past, served on the KAA board.

Here is what Karen had to say about our November show: "The entries for this show were all really good. It was difficult to make the "right" choices because I know the effort and love that goes into a piece, whether it's a photo, a drawing, a painting or a 3D. All of the artists are extremely talented individuals and I hope that my choices, whether objective or subjective, didn't leave anyone feeling that they aren't worthy of continued entries into future shows. We, as artists, need this exposure to continue growth and improvement in our art. By sharing our pieces with the "world", if you will, we open ourselves to criticism and that can be crippling. Rest assured I looked at each piece independently of the others and saw an amazing amount of talent in each one of them. Thanks for the opportunity to judge this show. I really did enjoy it!"

~3D



1st Place - BLACK, WHITE & SHADES OF GRAY, textile, Janna Curtis

This is a beautiful quilt! There is no doubt that this took hours of painstaking effort to create such an intricate yet perfect geometric pattern. It is truly a paradox to have the hard edges of the black and white shapes next to the softness of the floral patterns in a large piece such as this. To make it work this well shows an artist with tremendous skill in planning and discipline!



2nd Place - SHAG-RAG RUG, textile, Jody Farley

A fun and fluffy large rug that looks like it took a lot of hours to make. I would like to know what fabric was used to make it appear so soft and cuddly! This is a throw back style from the 50s that would really work great in any current decor because the artist chose a design that is quite contemporary.



3rd Place - MARGE SIMPSON DOES WOODSTOCK, mixed media, JoAnn Leadingham  
What a hoot this piece is! I can't tell if those are rosebuds on her hat or just plain buds! If it's Marge, we'll never know and she probably would have been arrested either way. A really fun piece!

## ~DIGITAL



1st Place - ORANGE BOWL, digital, Gary Olsen-Hasek  
This is a simple bowl of oranges, right? The photographer used shadows, shapes and light to create a piece that invites you in because of the fruit. Then, unexpectedly, you follow the motion of those same shadows and shapes which lead you on a tour of the entire photograph. Follow the lines around and around repeatedly and each time you see the nuances of light and shadow doing a delightful dance. Great use of contrasts!



2nd Place – DOGWOOD, digital, Janice Christman  
Sometimes in photography a picture can lose the dynamic of negative space through no fault of the photographer. This digitized photo, however, does just the opposite. By making the Dogwood flower vivid white, the dark shadows becomes an integral part of the photo rather than sinking into the background. It is truly a dynamic piece with good balance between light and dark and the outlines around each of the leaves further emphasize that balance. A wonderful photograph.



3rd Place - GROCERIES IN HYDER, ALASKA, Digital, Barbara DiMattio

What a great place this must have been in its heyday! Prospectors, miners, homesteaders all must have been a part of this building's history at a time during Alaska's boom. The photo leaves me wondering if a family lived in part of it. Upstairs or down? High up to avoid the deep snow in winters? Or high up to avoid the occasional passing bear or moose? Who were some of the patrons? Did they sell ice cream? This is a photograph of a building that makes me wish that it could talk, if only to answer questions about what it was like back when. A great photo for the history books!

## ~PHOTOGRAPHY



1st Place – SERENITY, photograph, Karen Saleen

This photo encompasses all of ingredients of a idyllic day. The stream leads this viewer into a lovely and calm pool. Perhaps shallow enough to wade in or skip rocks. The surrounding quiet is evident as soft shadows of the trees seem to protect the solitude. The stream is never interrupted and I found myself following it slowly to the end, never in a hurry, not wanting to end the exhilaration of such a beautiful day. This is a photograph that completely illustrates the importance of a good entry, a vanishing point, and atmospheric perspective. A really well composed picture.



2nd Place - BURSTING FORTH, photograph, Suzie Torre-Cross

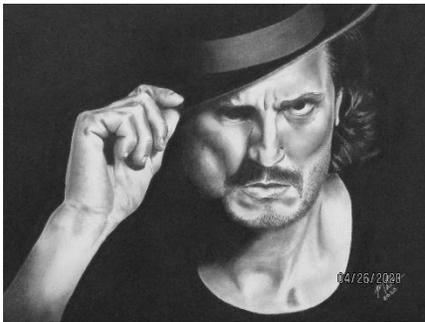
When I saw this picture it made me smile. There is something about it that exudes a sense of yahoo and wonderment! It is a joyful expression of Mother Nature's ability to transform the simplest act of being a flower to a celebration of beauty and light. There seem to be smiles on the littlest pods and the whole flower is obviously excited to be alive! Macro photography is a skill that takes an experienced artist to master. This piece represents an artist who has obviously mastered it! A beautiful and powerful photo!



3rd Place - LOVE IS SHADES OF GRAY, photograph, Robin Skinner

There is nothing more special than an animal who shows unconditional love in a simple expression. The owner of this dog has captured that in one photograph. The title should be "I'll Walk Through Fire For You" because the dog's eyes are a true testament to its adoration of the person behind the lens. The contrast of the show's theme colors really make this a standout picture. A beautiful fluffy pupper and a well done photograph.

## 2D



1st Place - BEWARE OF MR. COVID, pencil, Michael Dora

Wow! Would you invite him into your home or into your life? If Covid had a face this would definitely be it! This is a most amazing drawing. With a vivid imagination and a tremendous talent that defies description this artist has brought to life our worst nightmare! The ability to put on paper something of this intensity makes this viewer firmly believe that not all talent is created equal! The eyes of Mr. Covid reach deep into the darkness of his soul where no light exists. There is no sympathy, no warmth, no caring. He is a sociopath run wild with no one to catch him. Halloween has a new Freddie and we have officially met him! Such a realistic expression of what we're experiencing now. Again, Wow! Amazing!!



2nd Place - FANTASY FLOWERS, collage, Jody Farley

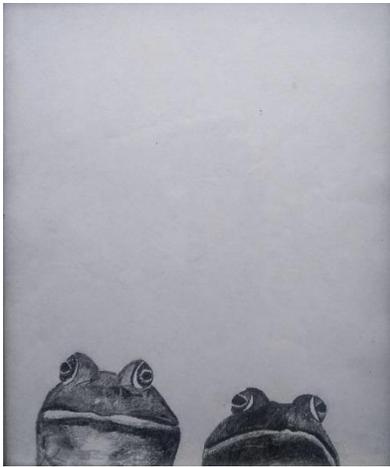
Wallpaper? Floral arrangements? What a great composition of contrasts, whimsy, sharp edges, soft textures and an element of surprise. Who would have thought that so many opposites would work so well together? This artist has defined all of these techniques and encapsulated them into one piece. There is background, foreground and middle ground. There is balance where there logically shouldn't be and yet it all works! I don't know how much time was spent creating this wonderfully done picture but hats off to a very talented artist!



3rd Place - LADY IN WAITING, scratchboard, Donna Lee

In darkness and shadows she waits. There is no doubt that this panther is quite relaxed in her pose but in one swift movement her tremendous power will come to life. That power has been masked quite effectively by a skilled artist who has the ability to work black on black to create the sheen on the cat's coat that belies the muscles in her forelegs and hindquarters. Black on black is rough to do no matter the medium and this is a beautiful example of how to achieve it effectively. It is also a great object lesson of foreshortening. The head/shoulders of the cat is closer to the viewer and that is only because the artist used foreshortening. This is a beautiful drawing.

## JUROR'S MERIT AWARD



~Juror's Merit Award CURIOSITY - IS THAT A FLY?, pencil, Terry Dempsey

We create cartoons because, as humans, we have the need to laugh. This drawing made me laugh. Do frogs have personalities? The artist behind these two have given both of them not only personalities but a definite vivre pour la vie attitude with just their expressions. They are obviously fun and life-of-the-party frogs! I loved that the artist drew them at the very bottom of the picture using the space above them to further emphasize their small size. And yet they're so big in dynamics! I just hope they get the fly! A fun drawing!

## Youth Art



1st Place, MELTING GHOSTS, paint on wood, Laylee Julander, 10 years old

## BEST OF SHOW



MELTING GHOSTS, paint on wood, Laylee Julander, 10 years old  
Looking at this piece on a computer screen vs. in person makes it difficult to discern exactly what media was used. It could be acrylic, it could be gouache, or it might even be oil paint. But whatever the artist used he or she possesses a unique talent for blending, mixing, shaping, and manipulating the media of choice to draw the viewer into his/her world of images. It was hard to count the number of ghosts I could see literally sliding into some kind of melting pot at the bottom of the piece. Maybe that's where the ghosts go after Halloween? A really unique, well done, and interesting entry from a young artist. Maybe a Jackson Pollack in the making! A perfect piece to showcase the colors of this month's theme. Good job and congratulations!