

Plein Air Santa Fe 2013

Plein Air Painters of New Mexico / Gary Kim Fine Art Gallery

Jeanne Mackenzie – Juror

It is a pleasure to be your juror for the Plein Air Santa Fe Exhibition. I feel that this is a very strong show making it a challenge to jury. There were many pieces that deserved honors. A good portion of the jury process is an emotional one. There is, however, a lot of careful thought put into the decisions. A good solid painting is not about a subject matter, style of painting or medium. I look for four main traits that often make for a strong painting - Drawing, Composition, Color, and Values.

- Does the artist show competent *drawing* skills? If the painting is animal, figure or landscape, do you feel they know their subject?
- Is it a solid *composition*? Is there an asymmetry yet balance? Is the division of space well thought out? Is there a main emphasis or focal point?
- *Color* choices are personal. An artist can choose to work with complementary colors, analogous colors or lean toward monochromatic. I look at how these choices are handled and if the painting has a harmony about it.
- If the piece is of a representational nature, do the *values*, the lights and darks, fall in the correct place? Does it have believable aerial perspective?



Best of Show

Caja del Rio Canyon-oil

by Richard Prather

This elegant piece shows a wonderful large expanse in a small package. It could easily be a 24x36 canvas. Even in its small size it captures a wonderful aerial perspective bringing you into the painting and back through the canyon. Its harmonious colors and sense of light gives you a time of day and quietness that this expansive landscape boasts.



2nd Place

Clouds Rolling In- oil

by Susan McCullough

I loved the strong shadows and pinion/juniper portraits. The values are strong and give the sense of the New Mexico light. The highlights of the evergreens show that delightful warm of the orange green.



3rd Place

Georgia on My Mind- oil

by Teresa Onoda

There is a lyrical strong sense of light in this piece. The varied shapes and bravado of brushwork make for bold, interesting patterns. It definitely says Georgia O'Keeffe country.



Honorable Mention

Adobe, Sumac and Blue Sky - oil

by Peggy Immel

Straight on vantage points can be a difficult composition. This lovely piece takes overly symmetrical walls and adds energy with diagonal shadows and a variety of lost and found edges. The artist captured the day light glow of the adobe wall.



Honorable Mention

Over the Hills and Far Away - oil

by Medina Croce

I loved the atmosphere in this painting. Back lit subjects can be difficult but the artist captured the strong light sky and warm to cools of the scene. The colors are muted but there is a hue separation that implies distance.



Honorable Mention

El Zagan - pastel

by Mike Mahon

An intimate look into a lovely garden. This artist has played up the color and contrast while still inviting your eye up to the porch. Shadows are colorful and he has put life into the cool whites and shadow colors under the eaves.