



NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION

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PRESS RELEASE

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New Jersey Highlands Juried Art Exhibit Winners Announced

Boonton, NJ October 11, 2019 - The New Jersey Highlands Coalition is pleased to announce the winners of the Sixth Annual Highlands Juried Art Exhibit, which continues to hang through November 3rd at the Morris Museum in Morristown. The exhibit, featuring an impressive mix of paintings, drawings, photographs and sculpture, focuses on the landscapes, flora, fauna and historic and cultural resources of the Four State Highlands Region, with particular emphasis on the New Jersey Highlands.

Morristown photographer George Aronson won First Place for his "Passaic River Through Great Swamp," a 24x30 black and white, infrared print showing the intersection of two of New Jersey's most well-known natural features. George received a \$500 award for his piece.

Ewa Pokora of Stockholm, NJ received Second Place for "Waxwing, 2007," a watercolor of a cedar waxwing, a species native to the Highlands. Ewa received a \$250 award for her painting.

Third place went to Ry An of Blairstown for his oil painting, "Where the Beavers Used to Be," a colorful and boldly expressive piece depicting a Highlands pond bathed in Autumn color. Ry receives a \$150 award for his painting

Honorable Mentions were awarded to Jane Biron of Chester for her “Marsh Log,” a ceramic sculpture which was among several submitted for the 3-D category, new for this year’s exhibit, and Christine Seo of Columbus, NJ, for her watercolor, “Dusky Light of the Forest”

This year’s exhibit also included a new Youth Category for artists 18 and under. The Grand Prize went to Ande Wittenmeier of Sparta for her Barn Owl on Scratch Board. Ande received a \$150 award for her painting. Second Place for the Youth Category went to Paulina Zamora of Ledgewood, NJ for her acrylic painting, “Starry Forest.”

Additional works featured in the exhibit include oil and acrylic paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture and mixed media. In addition to prize money totaling \$1,000, Honorable Mention prizes included 2 \$100 certificates for scanning or fine art print services from Techphoto, LLC, in Boonton, 4 tickets to the Giralda Music & Arts Festival donated by Morris Arts, a \$100 gift certificate from Helrick's Framing in Dover, a gift certificate for framing at Speakeasy Gallery in Boonton, and a one-on-one photo workshop with photographer Dwight Hiscano. Winning entries will also be featured on the New Jersey Highlands Coalition’s website and social media sites.

Artists from throughout the Northeast, regardless of experience, were invited to enter and work was accepted for jurying as long as it featured the landscapes, flora, fauna, natural, cultural and/or historic resources of the Highlands of NY, NJ, PA and CT (depictions of flora and fauna outside of the Highlands region were accepted if those species are typically found in the Highlands).

Organized by New Jersey photographer and Coalition trustee Dwight Hiscano and Coalition Volunteer Sra Dutta, juried by a panel of prominent local artists and gallery owners, and judged by Alexandra Willis, curator for the Morris Museum, the Annual Highlands Exhibit offers artists an opportunity to have their work shown in a prominent New Jersey museum while reaching reach a wide audience. This year’s jurors included Kathleen Palmer, Director, Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery of Bernardsville, Nancy Ori, photographer, director of the New Jersey

Photography Forum and New Jersey Media Center LLC, gallery owner and photographer Donna Compton of Boonton, Elliott Ruga, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, photographer and Policy & Communications Director for the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, award-winning abstract artist Mitchell Rosenzweig, and Dwight Hiscano.

The New Jersey Highlands Coalition is very pleased to announce that our 2020 Juried Highlands Art Show will again be shown at the Morris Museum, and will hang in August, September and October with an artists' reception in September. More information will be forthcoming later in the year.

About the NJ Highlands Coalition:

Through events such as the Highlands Art Exhibit, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition promotes awareness about the beauty, and cultural and natural resources of the NJ Highlands region. As a nonprofit organization in Boonton, New Jersey, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition works to protect, restore, and enhance the water and other natural and cultural resources of New Jersey's Highlands, now and for the future. The Coalition serves eighty-eight municipalities in Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren counties that are protected under the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act in addition to the 6.2 million state residents who depend on the Highlands for drinking water. For more information on the NJ Highlands Coalition or to become a member, please visit the organization's website: <http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org/>

About the Morris Museum:

Founded in 1913, the Morris Museum is an award-winning, community-based arts and cultural institution which serves the public through high caliber exhibitions in the arts, sciences and humanities. Now affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum also offers educational programs, family events, and is home to the Bickford Theatre and its wide range of performing arts offerings. For more information, visit www.morrismuseum.org.