

## A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Call to Artists – the Backus Museum’s annual juried photography competition “Through the Eye of the Camera” returns this spring***

Fort Pierce, FL – March 12, 2019 – The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery’s annual juried photography exhibition, ***Through the Eye of the Camera***, returns this spring with new opportunities to recognize and celebrate the finest artistry in the photographic medium. Amateur and professional artists in traditional and digital photography are encouraged to prepare to enter this longstanding and favorite competitive opportunity. This year’s full prospectus with dates, guidelines, and application is available to download from the Museum’s website at [www.BackusMuseum.com/juried-shows](http://www.BackusMuseum.com/juried-shows) or pick up at the Museum, 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, Florida.

Photographers may enter their work in one of eight media and subject categories: (1) Film/Traditional Raw Photography (Color and B&W, all subjects); (2) Digital – Plant, Wildlife, Animals; (3) Digital – Travel, Scenery; (4) Digital – Color Still Life/Portrait; (5) Digital – Black & White (all subjects); (6) Manipulated Imagery (any subject); (7) Alternate Substrates (any subject); and new for 2019, (8) Mobile (any subject). A select number of entries may also be showcased in a special 2020 color calendar produced by the exhibition sponsor. Full category descriptions with frequently asked questions are available in the prospectus.

The Museum is accepting applications and entries during regular hours Wednesdays – Sundays, beginning April 6 through May 4, until 3:00 pm. The competition is open to amateur and professional photographers with a \$30 entry fee for artists entering 1-3 works, \$25 entry fee for artists entering 4 or more works.

The juried exhibition ***Through the Eye of the Camera*** will be on view May 10 – June 21, 2019, with the opening reception Friday, May 17 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm and prizes awarded by the jury. The exhibition is sponsored by Veterinary Medical Center of St. Lucie County, and Jiffy Photo & Framing.

On view at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery through April 28 is the current exhibition ***Backus & Butcher and the Florida Landscape***, exploring kindred spirits of the land through the works of two masters of painting and photography, A.E. Backus (1906-1990) and Clyde Butcher (b. 1942). While these artists traveled two distinct creative paths, they shared one abiding passion: an admiring love for the rich variety of landscapes of the state they call home. ***Backus & Butcher and the Florida Landscape*** is sponsored by Dean, Mead, Minton & Zwemer Attorneys at Law and Misty & Michael Minton. The exhibition is organized by the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery. For more information, please visit [www.BackusMuseum.com](http://www.BackusMuseum.com).

## **About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**

With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery houses the nation's largest public presentation of artwork by Florida's preeminent painter, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state's only permanent multimedia exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, Backus was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the businesses and the private collections of many of Florida's most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the Florida Highwaymen. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim. It was voted "Best Museum 2018" in Indian River Magazine's annual "Best of the Treasure Coast," where it was described as "a fabulous place to visit."

Regular Hours are: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 PM (closed Monday-Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day. The Museum is closed on Easter Sunday, and will be closed on Sunday, May 5 for competition judging.

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