

**A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY**  
500 North Indian River Drive  
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950  
info@BackusMuseum.com • www.BackusMuseum.com  
772.465.0630



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ANNOUNCING THE ARTIST AWARDS FOR THE ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION “*THROUGH THE EYE OF THE CAMERA*” AT THE BACKUS MUSEUM – ON VIEW MAY 10 – JUNE 21, 2019**

May 9, 2019 - Fort Pierce, FL - The A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery is proud to present the 2019 ***Through the Eye of the Camera*** juried photography exhibition, featuring more than one hundred of the year’s best photographs by professional and amateur photographers from across the Treasure Coast and beyond. The exhibition is on view May 10 through June 21, 2019, with the opening reception, for Museum members, photographers submitting work for the exhibition, and the public, held on Friday, May 17, 2019 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

This year there were 115 artists who entered 302 photographs across eight different categories, with a total of 106 juried into the exhibition. The competition is fierce every year and cash prizes and special gifts from Canon U.S.A. are awarded for the most compelling pieces in each category as selected by the judges. The top 10 award winners are:

1. BEST OF SHOW – “Great Egret Mating Display” by Dawn Currie (Indian Harbour Beach)
2. FIRST PLACE FILM/TRADITIONAL RAW – “Namibia Night” by Susan McClure (Fort Pierce)
3. FIRST PLACE DIGITAL PLANT-WILDLIFE-ANIMALS – “Taking A Moment” by Elaine Schmitt (Stuart)
4. FIRST PLACE DIGITAL TRAVEL-SCENERY – “Colors to Infinity” by Maria Fernandez (Stuart)
5. FIRST PLACE DIGITAL COLOR STILL LIFE / PORTRAIT – “Passion for Purple” by Kelly Baehr (Port St. Lucie)
6. FIRST PLACE DIGITAL BLACK & WHITE – “Steel Dragon” by Gary Clarke (Port St. Lucie)
7. FIRST PLACE MANIPULATED IMAGERY – “Great Heron on Mars” by Chuck Haaland (Vero Beach)
8. FIRST PLACE ALTERNATE SUBSTRATES – “Perfect Preen” by Gary Shaver (Orlando)
9. FIRST PLACE MOBILE – “My Backyard Yoda” by Shelly Polvere (Fort Pierce)
10. DIRECTOR’S CHOICE – “Abyss” by Hilda Champion (Naples)

*A complete list of all accepted entries and award winners is available at the Museum’s website, [www.BackusMuseum.com](http://www.BackusMuseum.com).*

Each year new judges are selected to provide a fresh perspective on the exhibition. This year's judges include Susan Pantuso, Thomas Winter, and Aric Attas.

Aric Attas has won numerous awards for his fine art photography, which has been featured in many international exhibitions. He is on the faculty of Vero Beach Museum of Art’s Museum Art School, Hartford Art School and Trinity College. In addition, Attas mentors art students from around the world.

Susan Pantuso is an award-winning fine art photographer living in south Florida. Her work explores and captures the art that is revealed in nature. Pantuso says that it is not just a matter of seeing, but a feeling of connection, a spiritual connection of taking notice of things that may otherwise be overlooked. Her goal is to stir the emotions of the each of the viewer.

Thomas Winter is a commercial photographer specializing in corporate, industrial and editorial photography. His work is used for business communications and advertising worldwide. Winter is based in West Palm Beach and his projects often take him throughout the country.

“This year’s competition was a big step forward,” says Museum director Marshall Adams. “Compared to last year, we had an increase of more than 100 entries, and nearly double the number of participating artists. And we continued experimenting with categories. It’s our second year for Alternate Substrates, and we saw a lot of impressive variety – today, printing technology is allowing artists to create photographic images on metal, acrylic, glass, and canvas in new and exciting ways. And this was the first year for our new Mobile category – some of these rival what you’d think would be produced from more professional equipment. But we were also pleased to see the original category Film/Traditional Raw Photography grow this year – just as in other contemporary art forms, time-honored ways are still valid and can be exciting.”

During the exhibition through June 21, visitors are invited to share their own vote for their favorite work on display. The results will be tallied for the annual People’s Choice Award given at the close of the exhibition. ***Through the Eye of the Camera*** is sponsored by Veterinary Medical Center of St. Lucie County and Jiffy Photo and Framing. For more information on the exhibition, 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.

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**A.E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY**

Belinda Adkins	<i>Dragons</i>	Michael Evans	<i>Paddle on Fisheating Creek</i>
W. Michael Adkins	<i>Buddhist Pilgrim</i>	Maria Fernandez	<i>A New Beginning</i>
W. Michael Adkins	<i>Scribe</i>	Maria Fernandez	<i>Analysing Myself</i>
Kelly Baehr	<i>Passion for Purple</i>	Maria Fernandez	<i>Colors to Infiniti</i>
Kelly Baehr	<i>Sparkle with all Your Heart</i>	Maria Fernandez	<i>Eating and Chilling</i>
Debra Book Barrows	<i>Going Home</i>	Maria Fernandez	<i>True Colors</i>
Debra Book Barrows	<i>Junkanoo Spirit</i>	John Furlong	<i>Foggy Morning at Buck Hill</i>
Fred Benavidez	<i>Primordial Dance</i>	John Furlong	<i>Lily at Dusk</i>
David Bence	<i>Mussels and Limpets</i>	Monica Gabbard	<i>Turtle Eye</i>
Susan Blouin	<i>Quiet Strength</i>	Laura Garza	<i>Great Blue Heron</i>
Kent Buchanan	<i>Ready to Fly</i>	Erick Gill	<i>Under the Swings and Dreaming</i>
Bill Capie	<i>Twisted</i>	David Grachek	<i>Into the Mist</i>
Manuel Carela	<i>Another Magical Dream</i>	Chuck Haaland	<i>Great Heron on Mars</i>
Manuel Carela	<i>Look at Me, I Have a Dream</i>	Lynne Hollingsworth	<i>Genie in a Bottle</i>
Manuel Carela	<i>While I Wait</i>	Susan Jones	<i>Prickly Heat</i>
Barbara Catalano	<i>Check One, Two...Is This Thing On?</i>	Susan Jones	<i>Wall Flowers</i>
Barbara Catalano	<i>No Rain? No Problem!</i>	Kay Kent	<i>Frozen</i>
Hilda Champion	<i>Abyss</i>	Fred Kirkhart	<i>Bathtub Beach Lifeguard Stand</i>
Hilda Champion	<i>Morning Light</i>	Gwen Kurzen	<i>Blue Cypress Hideaway</i>
Hilda Champion	<i>Spiral</i>	Gwen Kurzen	<i>Pagoda in Pink</i>
Mary Lou Christy	<i>Forget Me Not</i>	William Lord	<i>Thoughtscape: Waning Luster</i>
Mary Lou Christy	<i>Regal</i>	Maureen Mackenzie	<i>A Day to Ponder</i>
Gary Clarke	<i>Neon Night</i>	Maureen Mackenzie	<i>Conflict</i>
Gary Clarke	<i>Night Time on the Southern Railway</i>	Maureen Mackenzie	<i>Morning Commute</i>
Gary Clarke	<i>Steel Dragon</i>	Maureen Mackenzie	<i>Nostalgia</i>
Krystal Comins	<i>Passionate Gerbera</i>	Maureen Mackenzie	<i>Sky Dancer</i>
Krystal Comins	<i>Striking a Regal Pose</i>	Maureen Mackenzie	<i>The Mage</i>
Krystal Comins	<i>The Pollinator</i>	Anne Malsbary	<i>Guiding the Herd to Pasture</i>
Dawn Currie	<i>Great Egret Mating Display</i>	Susan McClure	<i>Avatar Mist</i>
Kimberly Dahan	<i>Mirror Magic</i>	Susan McClure	<i>Namibia Night</i>
Mary Delaney	<i>I Said No</i>	Susan McClure	<i>Sands of Time</i>
Stephanie Diaz	<i>Watchful Eye</i>	Susan McClure	<i>Snow Village</i>

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Gregory McIntosh	<i>Eternal Hunters</i>	Chester Smith	<i>Smile</i>
Gregory McIntosh	<i>Fantasy Girl</i>	Mark Smith	<i>Doll Face</i>
Gregory McIntosh	<i>The Bluefish are Running</i>	Mark Smith	<i>The Church School</i>
Michael Minton	<i>God Says, "Put Down Your Phone!"</i>	Christopher Spain	<i>Royal Roseates</i>
Noelle Mooney	<i>Self Portrait</i>	Walter Veasey	<i>Manna</i>
Shawn Newton	<i>Floating Rock</i>	Walter Veasey	<i>Peace</i>
Linda Nicol	<i>Stormy Weather</i>	Michael Wetzel	<i>Crisp Teton Morn</i>
Anna Jo Noviello	<i>Happy Dance</i>	Michael Wetzel	<i>Teacher's Pests</i>
Anna Jo Noviello	<i>Jupiter Splendor</i>	Barbara Whitlam	<i>Blazing Hot Chevy</i>
Anna Jo Noviello	<i>Sheldon's Ruins</i>	Barbara Whitlam	<i>Garden Impressions</i>
Shelly Polvere	<i>My Backyard Yoda</i>	Arlene Willnow	<i>Foggy Morning</i>
Lauren Poole	<i>Cosmic Dream</i>		
Lauren Poole	<i>Right at Home</i>		
Michael Purcell	<i>Brake Now</i>		
Michael Purcell	<i>Lean In</i>		
Michael Purcell	<i>Never Let Go</i>		
Chuck Reller	<i>Black Death</i>		
Chuck Reller	<i>Into Thin Air</i>		
Chuck Reller	<i>La Ciudadela</i>		
Chuck Reller	<i>Polo Pegasus</i>		
Mike Ricciardi	<i>Sally Lightfoot Crab</i>		
Kimberly Roberts	<i>Space Odyssey</i>		
Kimberly Roberts	<i>Timeless Love</i>		
Alycia Rose	<i>Sweet Caroline</i>		
Elaine Schmitt	<i>Taking a Moment</i>		
Ed Scott	<i>Life Struggle</i>		
Terrie Selph	<i>The Search at Sunrise</i>		
Gary Shaver	<i>At Evening's End</i>		
Gary Shaver	<i>Perfect Mates</i>		
Gary Shaver	<i>Perfect Preen</i>		
Gary Shaver	<i>Refusing to Die</i>		

# Through the Eye of the Camera 2019 | Awards

## A.E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY

### BEST OF SHOW

Dawn Currie *Great Egret Mating Display* Alternate Substrates

### DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Hilda Champion *Abyss* Alternate Substrates

### FILM/TRADITIONAL RAW PHOTOGRAPHY — Color and Black & White

Susan McClure *Namibia Night* First Place  
Maureen Mackenzie *Morning Commute* Second Place  
Kimberly Dahan *Mirror Magic* Third Place  
Kelly Baehr *Sparkle With All Your Heart* Award of Merit  
Fred Kirkhart *Bathtub Beach Lifeguard Stand* Award of Merit

### DIGITAL — Plant, Wildlife, Animals

Elaine Schmitt *Taking A Moment* First Place  
Maria Fernandez *A New Beginning* Second Place  
Stephanie Diaz *Watchful Eye* Third Place  
Maureen Mackenzie *The Mage* Award of Merit  
Ed Scott *Life Struggle* Award of Merit  
Walter Veasey *Peace* Award of Merit

### DIGITAL — Travel, Scenery

Maria Fernandez *Colors to Infiniti* First Place  
Fred Benavidez *Primordial Dance* Second Place  
Hilda Champion *Morning Light* Third Place  
Chuck Reller *Polo Pegasus* Award of Merit

### DIGITAL — Color Still Life / Portrait

Kelly Baehr *Passion for Purple* First Place  
Mark Smith *Doll Face* Second Place  
Krystal Comins *Passionate Gerbera* Third Place  
W. Michael Adkins *Scribe* Award of Merit  
Mary Lou Christy *Forget Me Not* Award of Merit

### DIGITAL — Black & White

Gary Clarke *Steel Dragon* First Place  
Susan McClure *Avatar Mist* Second Place  
David Grachek *Into The Mist* Third Place  
Manuel Carela *Look At Me, I Have A Dream* Award of Merit  
Gregory McIntosh *Eternal Hunters* Award of Merit

### MANIPULATED IMAGERY

Chuck Haaland *Great Heron on Mars* First Place  
Michael Evans *Paddle on Fisheating Creek* Second Place  
Maureen Mackenzie *A Day To Ponder* Award of Merit  
Noelle Mooney *Self Portrait* Award of Merit

### ALTERNATE SUBSTRATES

Gary Shaver *Perfect Preen* First Place  
Anna Jo Noviello *Happy Dance* Second Place  
Gary Shaver *Perfect Mates* Third Place  
Gary Shaver *Refusing to Die* Award of Merit  
Anna Jo Noviello *Jupiter Splendor* Award of Merit

### MOBILE

Shelly Polvere *My Backyard Yoda* First Place  
Lauren Poole *Right at Home* Second Place  
Susan Jones *Wall Flowers* Third Place  
Gregory McIntosh *The Bluefish Are Running* Award of Merit