

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



EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

**The Backus Museum announces the award winners for the
2019 Juried Art Exhibition *The Best of the Best***

Fort Pierce, FL - October 11, 2019 - The A.E. Backus Museum is happy to announce the award winning artists and works featured in the 2019 Juried Art Exhibition ***The Best of the Best***. The show will be on view now through November 15, 2019. The popular annual competition yields the best works of art in a variety of media from artists across the state. Award winners' works will be highlighted on Saturday, October 12, 2019, during the Season Opening Celebration from 5:00 till 8:00 p.m.

AWARD WINNERS FOR THE 2019 *THE BEST OF THE BEST*

There were a total of 41 awards conferred to those works deemed to be the "Best of the Best." The overall Best in Show was awarded to Frank Spino for his watercolor painting *Key Lime #1*. First Prize in Oil/Acrylic was Rita Barone's acrylic painting *Scottish Highlands*; First Prize in Watercolor went to Judy Mercer's *Home at Last*; First Prize in Three-Dimensional was awarded to Joan Earnhart's *The Mariner's Cabin*; First Prize in Varied Techniques was Barbara Lyons's *Architectonics #1 Revisited*; and the Director's Choice award was earned by Dawn Miller's pastel drawing *The Look*. Additionally, there were Second and Third Place awards in each category, as well as a total of 27 Awards of Merit to other works of note. A full list of award winners, as well as all 108 works accepted by the judges for the exhibition, can be found at www.BackusMuseum.org/juried-shows.

The October 12 Opening Reception is free of charge to Museum Members, artists and sponsor's guests. The charge for non-members is \$20. Individuals can join the Museum at the open celebration for \$60. Couples memberships are \$120 and family memberships are \$175.

Sunday, October 13 from 12 noon to 4:00 pm is the Season Open House for the community, with free admission and light refreshments available.

Visitors to this year's exhibition can have their own voices heard by participating in the People's Choice award during the run of ***Best of the Best***. Visitors may vote once on the one work of art that is their favorite, and at the end of the exhibition, the artist will receive this special honor.

"This competition is the perfect way to start our new season each year," said Marshall Adams, museum director. "There's so much to see, and all so different. When you hear that there's something for everyone, this is what they mean – richly varied styles, subjects, and techniques, but all excellent. The Museum is committed to encouraging the work of living artists, and shows like this bring artists and the community together."

The sponsor of this year's ***Best of the Best*** exhibition is Melville Wealth Management Group of Stifel.

JUDGES FOR THE 2019 *THE BEST OF THE BEST*

Liza Niles, Chief of Education and Exhibitions | Armory Art Center
West Palm Beach

Liza Niles is an educator and designer with over twenty years' experience. Her responsibilities at the Armory Art Center include the development of curriculum, hiring and supervision of faculty, strategic financial planning, the establishment of adult continuing education programs, and the establishment of an international exchange program with workshops. Liza received her BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston and has taught design and textiles in the US and abroad.

Sarah J. Smith, Director of Collections | University Museums, Florida Institute of Technology
Melbourne

Sarah Smith is the Director of Collections for the Foosaner Art Museum and the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts at Florida Tech. Smith received her Master's degree in Museum Studies and a Bachelor's of Arts in Art History from the University of Florida. Prior to her work at Florida Tech, she worked with Alaska State Museums and was on staff at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida for five years in the registration and curatorial department.

Jim Rigg, Faculty Artist | School of Art, Lighthouse ArtCenter
Tequesta

Jim Rigg is a graduate of Wichita State University with a Fine Arts degree in Graphics, and was employed as a graphic designer for Kansas State University. He is an accomplished watercolorist with an innovative and unique style. Jim has been a painting instructor and demonstrator at workshops, art exhibits, art fairs, and presentations before art organizations. He was the former President of the Kansas Watercolor Society.

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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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Backus Museum announces the Accepted Art for the 2019 Juried Art Exhibition *The Best of the Best*

Fort Pierce, FL - October 4, 2019 - The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is pleased to open and announce the works of art that have been accepted to the 2019 Juried Art Exhibition ***The Best of the Best***. A jury panel of three independent judges voted to accept 108 entries out of 222 submissions in four categories: Oil/Acrylics, Watercolor, Varied Techniques, and Three-Dimensional. Special awards will be announced on Friday, October 11, the day before the Season Opening reception on Saturday, October 12. The exhibition will be on view October 4 through November 15, 2019 at 500 N. Indian River Drive in Fort Pierce.

This year ***The Best of the Best*** is open early for a special weekend of free admission, to coincide with the 3M Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge – U.S. Nationals on October 4, 5 and 6. Hosted by the Treasure Coast Sports Commission, the national endurance competition will take place in the parking lot between the Museum and the Manatee Observation and Education Center. Visitors to the Museum this weekend will be guided to special event parking, with shuttles available.

The October 12 Season Opening for ***The Best of the Best*** is free of charge to Museum Members and to submitting artists. The charge for not-yet members is \$20, or they can join at the door for a new season of events and excitement. Individuals can join the Museum at the open celebration for \$60. Couples memberships are \$120, and Family memberships are \$175 and include reciprocal benefits at museums throughout North America.

The judges for the ***The Best of the Best*** 2019 were Liza Niles (Armory Art Center), Sarah J. Smith (University Museums, Florida Institute of Technology), Jim Rigg (Lighthouse ArtCenter School of Art).

The sponsor of this year's exhibition is Melville Wealth Management Group of Stifel.

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FILE: 2019 Best of the Best – Accepted Works, Backus Museum

2019 Best of the Best Annual Juried Exhibition Award Winners (Page 1 of 2)

BEST OF SHOW	Frank Spino	<i>Key Lime #1</i>	Watercolor
DIRECTOR'S CHOICE	Dawn Miller	<i>The Look</i>	Varied Techniques

OIL / ACRYLIC

FIRST PLACE	Rita Barone	<i>Scottish Highlands</i>
SECOND PLACE	Christopher Williams	<i>Amtrak 641, Keystone Service Arrives into Trenton, NJ</i>
THIRD PLACE	Christopher Gunkel	<i>Lauren's Pond</i>
AWARD OF MERIT	Rita Barone	<i>After the Rain</i>
	Rita Barone	<i>Morning Song</i>
	Lynn Brouillette	<i>Gala</i>
	Elise Geary	<i>Tranquility</i>
	S.B. Giblin	<i>Rose</i>
	Mags Hobbs	<i>Floral</i>
	Karin Huggins	<i>Garden Glimmer</i>
	René Laigo	<i>Zippy</i>
	Karen Leffel-Massengill	<i>Early Morning Light</i>
Georgina Love	<i>Time to Fly</i>	
Ann Steakin	<i>Wodabe Woman</i>	

WATERCOLOR

FIRST PLACE	Judy Mercer	<i>Home at Last</i>
SECOND PLACE	B.J. Beavin	<i>Albino Zebra</i>
THIRD PLACE	Stanley Greene	<i>Cosmos</i>
AWARD OF MERIT	B.J. Beavin	<i>Agneaux</i>
	B.J. Beavin	<i>Oliphant</i>
	Jeanette Drake	<i>Mama Love</i>
	Judy Mercer	<i>Dogwood</i>

2019 Best of the Best Annual Juried Exhibition Award Winners (Page 2 of 2)

VARIED TECHNIQUES

FIRST PLACE	Barbara Lyons	<i>Architectonics #1 Revisited</i>
SECOND PLACE	Mark Kirby	<i>Loaded Question</i>
THIRD PLACE	Joyce McAdams	<i>Lost in Translation</i>
AWARD OF MERIT	Marianne Andersson	<i>Dragonsburg</i>
	Rita Barone	<i>Provence</i>
	Nancy Dillen	<i>Self Portrait with Friends</i>
	Gregory Ingerson	<i>Jovial Jester</i>
	Bernard McCrary	<i>Sea Shell—Ocean Explosion</i>
	Owen McGoldrick	<i>Don't Bring Lulu</i>
	Sandra Peters	<i>Dance Expressions</i>
Eduardo Santiago	<i>The Last Jolly Rancher</i>	
Carol Staub	<i>XOXO</i>	

THREE-DIMENSIONAL

FIRST PLACE	Joan Earnhart	<i>The Mariner's Cabin</i>
SECOND PLACE	Jennifer Shibona	<i>Butterfly Garden</i>
THIRD PLACE	Ramayana Baba	<i>Second Thought</i>
AWARD OF MERIT	Ramayana Baba	<i>Indifference</i>
	Soozi Schuble	<i>Different Schools</i>
	Jack Shelton	<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>

The judges for the ***The Best of the Best*** 2019 were Liza Niles (Armory Art Center), Sarah J. Smith (University Museums, Florida Institute of Technology), Jim Rigg (Lighthouse ArtCenter School of Art).

The sponsor of this year's exhibition is Melville Wealth Management Group of Stifel.

2019 Best of the Best Annual Juried Exhibition Accepted Works (Page 1 of 4)

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Marianne Andersson	<i>Dragonsburg</i>
Paul Arsenault	<i>Rainbow Springs</i>
Ramayana Baba	<i>Indifference</i>
Ramayana Baba	<i>Second Thought</i>
Rita Barone	<i>After the Rain</i>
Rita Barone	<i>Scottish Highlands</i>
Rita Barone	<i>Morning Song</i>
Rita Barone	<i>Provence</i>
B.J. Beavin	<i>Agneaux</i>
B.J. Beavin	<i>Albino Zebra</i>
B.J. Beavin	<i>Oliphant</i>
David Bolinsky	<i>John Brooks Beach</i>
Lynn Brouillette	<i>Gala</i>
Lynn Brouillette	<i>Sea Turtle</i>
Judy Burgarella	<i>Dama de Elche</i>
Luanne Keen/Chase Burritt	<i>The Ring</i>
Peter Coe	<i>Jungle Trail III</i>
Peter Coe	<i>Pemaquid</i>
Kenneth Dara	<i>Indian River Snapper</i>
Minakshi De	<i>Captive</i>
Nancy Dillen	<i>Self Portrait with Friends</i>
Nancy Dillen	<i>King's Land</i>
Barbara Derecktor Donahue	<i>Goat Muse</i>
Jeanette Drake	<i>Mama Love</i>
Jeanette Drake	<i>Wingin' It</i>
Joan Earnhart	<i>Tabernacle</i>
Joan Earnhart	<i>After the Storm</i>
Joan Earnhart	<i>The Mariner's Cabin</i>
Cathy Ferrell	<i>Skimming the Treetops</i>
Susan Fowler	<i>Double Eagle</i>

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Catherine Fox	<i>Spoonin'</i>
Catherine Fox	<i>Biguana</i>
E. Marie Francis	<i>Red Hibiscus Design</i>
Elise Geary	<i>Tranquility</i>
Katie Gianni	<i>Flamboyant Kings</i>
S.B. Giblin	<i>Rose</i>
Stanley Greene	<i>Cosmos</i>
Elaine Grippi	<i>Birds</i>
Christopher Gunkel	<i>Wine on the Rocks</i>
Christopher Gunkel	<i>Lauren's Pond</i>
Sherry Haaland	<i>Wading Ripples</i>
Jill Heveron	<i>Long Tall Sally</i>
Mags Hobbs	<i>Floral</i>
Karin Huggins	<i>Garden Glimmer</i>
Karin Huggins	<i>Backyard Beauty</i>
Carol Hughes	<i>Musical Saws</i>
Gregory Ingerson	<i>Jovial Jester</i>
Susan Juranich	<i>Up Country Cattle</i>
Mark Kirby	<i>Vesta Music</i>
Mark Kirby	<i>Venue</i>
Mark Kirby	<i>Loaded Question</i>
René Laigo	<i>Zippy</i>
Andrea Lazar	<i>Boots and Butts</i>
Karen Leffel-Massengill	<i>Tocanna Americana</i>
Karen Leffel-Massengill	<i>Early Morning Light</i>
Doreen Lepore	<i>The Red Boat</i>
Georgina Love	<i>Time to Fly</i>
Barbara Lyons	<i>Indian Riverside Park</i>
Barbara Lyons	<i>Architectonics #1 Revisited</i>
Joyce McAdams	<i>Lost in Translation</i>

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Bernard McCrary	<i>Sea Shell - Ocean Explosion</i>
Owen McGoldrick	<i>Don't Bring Lulu</i>
Judy Mercer	<i>Dogwood</i>
Judy Mercer	<i>Home at Last</i>
Catherine Miller	<i>Snookam's Launch</i>
Dawn Miller	<i>The Look</i>
S.E. Morgan	<i>Hot Flash</i>
Janis Clary Oehlschlager	<i>Beauty and Power</i>
Aksel Sand Pedersen	<i>Still Life with Fruit, Salt Shaker</i>
Sandra Peters	<i>Peaceful Easy Feelin'</i>
Sandra Peters	<i>Dance Expressions</i>
Shelly Polvere	<i>Fantasy Forest</i>
Victoria Racine	<i>Hurricane Brain</i>
Tara Rovani	<i>L.A. Junkyard</i>
Esta Rubin	<i>Moonrise in Arches</i>
Eduardo Santiago	<i>Matriarch - Catalina</i>
Eduardo Santiago	<i>Timeless</i>
Eduardo Santiago	<i>Photo Booth, Brooklyn NY</i>
Eduardo Santiago	<i>The Last Jolly Rancher</i>
Vera Sattler	<i>Queen Triggerfish</i>
Vera Sattler	<i>Orange Grouper</i>
Soozi Schuble	<i>Different Schools</i>
Soozi Schuble	<i>Full House</i>
Jack Shelton	<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>
Jack Shelton	<i>Granddad's Mahogany</i>
Jack Shelton	<i>Emerging Form</i>
Jennifer Shibona	<i>Once Upon a Time</i>
Jennifer Shibona	<i>Butterfly Garden</i>
Robert Smith	<i>Patchogue Harbor Circa 1955</i>
Deborah Spencer	<i>Wine for Two</i>

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Frank Spino	<i>Key Lime #1</i>
Shelley Stang	<i>White Sands</i>
Carol Staub	<i>XOXO</i>
Ann Steakin	<i>Wodabe Woman</i>
Yvonne Steere	<i>Fields of Impressions</i>
Paul Struve	<i>Dr. Todd's Hurricane Vase</i>
Anna Jo Newman Vahle	<i>Cocoa Beach Pier</i>
Anna Jo Newman Vahle	<i>Ponce Inlet Lighthouse</i>
Anna Jo Newman Vahle	<i>Gray Catbird</i>
Anna Jo Newman Vahle	<i>Chapel of St. Panteleimon</i>
Richard Waugh	<i>Ft Pierce Drive In Theatre</i>
Sharon Way-Howard	<i>Black Skimmers in Flight</i>
Helen Wheatley	<i>Jungle Mist</i>
Anne Whitney	<i>Red Parasol</i>
Daniel Wigley	<i>Lead Guitar</i>
Christopher Williams	<i>Amtrak 641, Keystone Service Arrives into Trenton, NJ</i>
Scott Woodward	<i>The Florida Everglades</i>
Scott Woodward	<i>Spoonbills and Mangroves</i>

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