

Heartland
Art Center
37th Annual
Juried Regional
Art Exhibit



September 30 thru
November 1
2025

Our Judge

Mark Rospenda's meticulous nature always presents itself through his work. Using paper as a means of exploring the delicate, mutable nature of our thinking processes, he physically cuts it into shreds and converts his drawing into pulp. Parts and elements are exchanged between works with some evolving over a number of years. The images that result are moments within a stream of thinking and forgetting – records of memories lost, found and transforming. His work has been exhibited at the Spartanburg Art Museum, Spartanburg, SC; DEMO Project, Springfield, IL; Herron Galleries, Indianapolis, IN; and other locations nationally. Upcoming exhibition include Dream Clinic, Columbus OH 2025; and COOP Gallery, Nashville, IN 2026.

From 2011-2022, he was Curator at the South Bend Museum of Art, where he organized and oversaw more than 125 exhibitions. Since 2021, his artwork has been included in the White Columns Curated Artist Registry. Rospenda lives and works in South Bend, IN where he is Adjunct Faculty in Fine Arts and Gallery Director at Indiana University-South Bend.

Additional comments at end of booklet

2025 Prize Winners

BEST OF SHOW

Surrender Splendor

Heidi Bailey

\$750 Prize

Outstanding in Watercolor

Wild Things

Vicki Szczepankiewicz (Yates)

\$250 Prize

Outstanding in Oil

Tummy-Tum-2 Years Old

Morgan Watters

\$250 Prize

Outstanding in Acrylics

Awakening

Teresa Kawaguchi

\$250 Prize

Outstanding in Photography

“Poncho” Self-Portrait

Jesus Salome Arriaga

\$250 Prize

Outstanding in Mixed Media

Somos Semillas – We are Seeds

Mary Amador

\$250 Prize

Outstanding in Sculpture

Love Birds – Red Tailed Hawks

Efrain Saune

\$250 Prize

Outstanding Not in a Main Media

Hidden Rusty Treasure

Brenda Ramseier

\$250 Prize

POPULAR CHOICE

\$200 Prize

PURCHASE AWARD WINNERS

Fall Harvest

John Thomas

Provided by: Greg Hildebrand

Wild Thing

Vickie Szczepankiewicz

Provided by: Parker & Julia Haynes

I like Old Trucks

Elizabeth Endres

Provided by: Mike & Tresa Hammond

Palace Gate

Kathy Zentz

Provided by: Gary & Jeannie Treat

River Glass

Kari Chittenden

Provided by: Montgomery Well Drilling

Autumn in the Country

Rosie Mireles

Provided by: Friend of Heartland

Aerial Blue Tote Bag w/original Art

Christa Risher

Provided by Tim & Sarah Smith

El Contrsbajista

Dina Heijselaar

Provided by: Margaret Baumer & Bruce Wakeland

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

The Gibson Foundation

Laney Family Honey

Kelsie Berger

The Kietzman Family

Carl & Tonya Stockberger

Kathy Zentz

Ed & June Pullen

PAN-O-PLY Story & Art Michiana

Biggby Coffee

Marcia Price Art Fund

Randy & Eleanor Danielson

Jon Miller

Ren & Beverly VanGilder

Tim Overmyer & Christa Risher

Friends of Heartland Art Center

	Last Name	First Name	Title of Artwork	Price
1	Amador	Mary	Holy Water, Little Fish	NFS
2	Amador	Mary	Somos Semillas - We Are Seeds	\$900
3	Arriaga	Jesus Salome	"Pocho" Self-Portrait I, from "Ni De Aqui (-) Or There" Series	NFS
5	Bailey	Heidi	Booby Trapped	\$1200
6	Bailey	Heidi	Surrender Splendor	\$1300
7	Barkdull	Nanne	Stone Bridge Over Millrace Canal	NFS
9	Barth	Karen	The Gaze	\$350
11	Boener	Cynthia	Still Life	\$75
12	Booren	Joshua	Twilit	\$300
14	Burkholder	Marge	Marketplace	\$280
15	Burkholder	Marge	My Onion Collection	\$285
16	Burkholder	Marge	Primrose	\$135
17	Capek	Mary	Route 66	\$350
18	Babcock	Carrolyn	Paisley Persuasion	\$300
19	Carter	Cindy	Rosie's Cat	\$150
20	Carter	Sue	Beautiful colors in the wind	\$110
21	Chittenden	Kari	River glass	\$225
22	Chittenden	Kari	Friendship Circle	\$450
23	Chittenden	Kari	Fairy on a Mushroom	\$175
24	Risher	Christa	Aerial Blues Tote-bag with original art	\$300
25	Risher	Christa	Power Trip	\$100
26	Risher	Christa	Box of Rocks	\$150
27	Clark	June	Timeless	NFS
28	Cobblestone	Edelweiss	Afternoon Nap	\$1300
29	Cobblestone	Edelweiss	The Mapmaker	\$1300
30	Coffing	Erica	Creek Falls	\$400
31	Coffing	Erica	Chain O' Lakes	\$350
32	Coffing	Erica	The Feminine Mystique	\$600
34	Diebold	Paul	Canal Scene - Broad Ripple IV	\$800
35	Dillabaugh	Dan	Homeward Bound	\$1800
36	Dillabaugh	Dan	Jordan Valley Oasis	\$900
37	DiLorenzo	Gabrielle	Swap Meet at Ligonier	\$475
38	DiLorenzo	Gabrielle	Self Portrait with Sauerkraut	\$500
40	DiLorenzo	Gabrielle	Swiftly: Pay Cash and Save	\$450
42	Dixon	Kathy	Me, Myself, and I	\$340
43	Dixon	Kathy	Kokoleka Latte	NFS

44	Endres	Elizabeth	I Like Old Trucks.	\$250
45	Estes	Carol	The Air She Breathes	\$215
46	Estes	Carol	Ariel Arabesque (Anthropomorphism)	\$185
47	Evans	Katie	SHAHE	\$600
48	Evans	Katie	A teaching moment	\$400
49	Evans	Katie	Edna	\$1000
50	Evans	Katie	REPRISE	\$600
52	GLEISSNER	PHIL	Pacific Cruise	\$250
53	GLEISSNER	PHIL	Hitch'n a Ride	\$250
54	Golden	Melanie	Colorplay	\$475
55	Grochowski	Joann	by any other name	\$888
56	Hanefeld	Susan	Miranda Skye	NFS
57	Heijsselaar	Dina	El Contrabajista	\$300
58	Heijsselaar	Dina	Coastal Desert	\$225
59	Holderread	James Dee	Sunday Morning Light	\$600
60	Holderread	James Dee	Urban Refraction	\$300
61	KASZNIA	LYNN	SUNRISE/SUNSET	\$400
62	Kawaguchi	Teresa	Awakening	\$360
63	Kawaguchi	Teresa	Glory	\$180
64	Keller	Edward	Lodz the Fearless	\$560
65	KELLER	EDWARD	Drummer in Red	\$1600
66	Kertai	Kristyn	The Bear	\$1040
67	Kertai	Kristyn	Gluttony	NFS
68	Kinney	Rhonda	Delight	\$200
69	Kinney	Rhonda	Vibrancy Triptych	\$180
70	Klingernsmith	Kate	Hanging Out (Whiskey & Spike)	\$3700
71	Klingernsmith	Kate	Buzz Off!	\$3200
72	Kubley	Maggie	Mirror, Mirror	\$250
79	Lohse	Joy	Time for Me to Fly	\$475
80	Lohse	Joy	Waterlily Bouquet	\$225
82	Costello	Maurice	a sparrow	\$250
83	Costello	Maurice	The Matriarch II	NFS
84	McCarthy	Colleen	Gentle Judy	\$200
85	McIntire	Grace	Women	NFS
86	Meadows	Kelly	The Evening Star at Sunset	\$550
87	Miller	Jon Richard	Wonder	\$1200
88	Mireles	Rosie	Little Pepito	\$350

89	Mireles	Rosie	Autumn in the Country	\$250
90	Monteleone	Julie	What Do You See?	\$70
91	Nemeth	Judy	The View Less Seen	\$175
92	Olshein	Perry	Collecting Rent	\$350
93	Overmyer	Diane	Morning at the House of the Singing Winds	\$550
94	Overmyer	Diane	June's Final Curtain	\$550
95	Paczkowski	Donna	What the Light Revealed	NFS
96	Pregel	Pat	Cave Dwellers	\$300
97	Pregel	Pat	Guardian	\$350
98	Peckiconis	Jeanne	Inner Garden	\$250
99	Pelka	Susan	Luminous Grasses	\$235
100	Potis	Deb	Old Hollywood	\$195
101	Potis	Deb	Bachelor Party #2	\$195
102	Pyle	Charles	One black rose	\$200
103	Ramseier	Brenda	Exhilaration	\$500
104	Ramseier	Brenda	Hidden Rusty Treasure	\$350
105	Ramseier	Brenda	It's a New Day	\$400
106	Ramseier	Brenda	Can We Be Friends?	\$325
107	Rayhrer	Constanze	Blue Beauty	NFS
108	Ring	Susan	Fiddler at Cliffs of Moher	\$750
109	Ring	Susan	Water Lilies at Lake's Edge	\$325
119	Saune	Efrain	Hand Carved-Red Tailed Hawk	\$1500
120	Saune	Efrain	Love Birds-Hand Carved Red Tailed Hawks	\$1800
121	Schwenk	Evelyn	Fishing the Lily Pads, Lawrence Lake	\$375
123	Schwenk	Evelyn	Lake Max Beacon	\$325
124	Schwenk	Evelyn	Lydick Bog Wildflowers	\$225
125	SCOTT	Ginny	MANDALA# 1	\$650
127	Sczepankiewicz (Yates)	Vicki	Serenity	\$800
128	Sczepankiewicz (Yates)	Vicki	Wild Things	\$450
129	Sczepankiewicz (Yates)	Vicki	Endurance	\$225
130	Sczepankiewicz (Yates)	Vicki	Wandering The Yard	\$250
131	Sczepankiewicz (Yates)	Vicki	Pollen Gathering	\$300
132	Seitz	Gloria	Amalfi Adventure	\$300
133	Senovic	Lenore	Reflections	\$420

134	Senovic	Lenore	Seymore	\$420
135	Senovic	Lenore	Girl's Day Out	\$500
136	Shewman	Bill	Us	\$950
137	Spohrer	Joan	Sunset on the Marsh	\$500
138	Spohrer	Joan	Cinque Terre Cove	\$500
141	Stipanovich	Deborah	Garden Windows	\$395
142	Stipanovich	Deborah	Floral Extravaganza	\$395
143	Straw	Tony	Zen	\$325
144	Straw	Tony	Tragic	\$325
146	Straw	Tony	Beyond	\$325
147	Straw	Tony	Elsewhere	\$325
148	Swisher	Joseph	Bird in Flight	\$200
149	Swisher	Joseph	Pelicans on Rock	\$200
150	Thomas	John	Fall Harvest	\$350
151	Thomas	John	Fountain of Fruit	\$350
152	Thomas	John	Found My Marbles	\$350
153	Tietz	Joan	Falling Leaves	\$250
154	Tietz	Joan	Full Bloom	\$225
155	Tietz	Joan	Kaleidoscope	\$600
159	Tillman-Craig	Kate	Old Gray Barn Just Ain't What She Used to Be	\$255
160	Tillman-Craig	Kate	Grow Where You Aren't Expected	\$425
161	Tillman-Craig	Kate	Given The Space To Grow	\$600
163	Vallicelli	Rich	Untitled	\$275
164	Vallicelli	Rich	Untitled	\$590
165	Wagner	Mark	The Forest At Night, Burl Wood Vessel	\$385
166	Wagner	Mark	Fine Feathered Friend	\$149
167	Watters	Morgan	Michael's Giraffe	\$800
168	Watters	Morgan	Tummy-Tum- 2 Years Old	\$1500
170	Witt	Mona	Behind the 8 Ball	\$300
171	Wright	Natalee	Beneath the Old Apple Tree	\$250
172	Wright	Natalee	Reflections at Dusk	\$250
173	Wright	Natalee	Stillness Before Spring	\$250
174	Zentz	Kathy	Palace Gate	\$300
175	Zentz	Kathy	Fulfillment	\$300
176	Zuber	Thomas	Prodigal	\$2000

Judge's Comments

Outstanding in Watercolor

One of the main characteristics I examine when I judge artworks is the handling of the medium. Does the medium enhance the message I think the artist is trying to convey? And is the artist taking chances with the medium? The answer is "yes" to both questions in Vicki Szczepankiewicz Yates's, *Wild Things*. I fully appreciate the range of mastery on display. The image feels alive while also acknowledging its artifice in areas where the artist allows watercolor to just be watercolor and bleed and flow (as water does!). As a whole, the image simultaneously exudes life while exclaiming "Yes, I am a watercolor on paper—aren't I magical?"

Outstanding in Oil

Morgan Watters's, *Tummy-Tum-2 Years Old*, made me giggle when I first read the title. That's the hook for this little gem. After my giggle, I began to wonder about the oddness of the Frankenstein's monster-esque bear that's depicted. I don't know the narrative, but the painting also doesn't make me feel like an outsider looking in, unable to make any connection to the work. There's room for the viewer to make their own associations. And if nothing else, one can appreciate the subtle handling of the medium — the coloration of reflected light, shadowing and range of values and textures. It's a gorgeous gumdrop of a painting. And there was that initial giggle, too.

Outstanding in Acrylics

How many images of sunrises and sunsets do we encounter in our lives? I don't know if there's a quantifiable average. But it's a lot. So it really is something when an artist can take a subject that is such a cliché, and imbue it with dynamism, life, and just enough oddity to capture the attention of even the most cynical art judge. There is individual style on display in Teresa Kawaguchi's, *Awakening*. The coordinated use of color and shape define this image, giving an ephemeral moment a weightiness, energy and sense of majesty. My eye is also drawn to the strange seam in the sky— almost like a line of reflection. I find it slightly unsettling, and indicates that the awakening of this day is not a typical one.

Outstanding in Photography

Jesus Salome Arriaga's complex image, "*Pocho*" *Self-Portrait I*, from "*Ni De Aqui (-) Or There*" *Series*, addresses personal identity within the present political climate and this country's evolving positions on immigration and inclusion. The subject of the image is wearing a Mexican serape and stands near a similarly sized American flag hanging from a structure used by photographers for backdrops. Which design should this subject "wear" and identify with? Does either fit? The image conveys a sense of displacement and vulnerability that speaks volumes.

Outstanding in Mixed Media

Mary Amador's, *Somos Semillas - We Are Seeds*, is an exuberant message of resilience and hope. The central figure in the painting seems to be transforming into a reality that extends beyond the canvas as represented by a number of materials more traditionally associated with fiber arts. Generally, threads are used to hold things together. And within the world of this artwork, this motif is found in the sacred heart, the birds, and the strands that are incorporated into the background flower — as if exploding into the world from figure. A wonderful message in a world that could use more light and hope.

Outstanding in Sculpture

Two red-tailed hawks magically emerge from a piece of wood in Efraine Saune's, *Love Birds*. Pattern, color and form describe the birds as they intertwine and encircle each other as they seem to take flight. I especially love how thin areas of the wood. It reminds me of how marble is transformed into twigs and translucent leaves at the end of Daphne's fingertips in Bernini's, *Apollo and Daphne* (1622–1625)—the way the artist stretches the medium to its limit. *Love Birds* is a tour de force on a small scale. It makes me wonder what the artist could accomplish with a larger piece of sourced wood (how about a whole tree?).

Outstanding Not in a Main Media

This was perhaps the most difficult category to judge, as the works and media were so varied. But my eye kept returning to Brenda Ramseler's, *Rusty Treasure*. The mark making is extremely fine, nuanced and layered. It heightens the feeling of discovering something in the forest (a forest of trees and a forest of marks on paper). The world of the image is unified and believable. And

perhaps I have read too many Stephen King books, but I find myself speculating about the car. The interior is lost in shadow and we're only allowed to see the grill that toothily grins at us. It has a sinister quality. Perhaps some rusty treasures are best left hidden.

Best in Show

There were so many artworks that could have won Best in Show. But I decided that medium, message, style, and ambition all reach a fever pitch in Heidi Bailey's, *Surrender Splendor*. It's an explosion of energy, ideas, materials — and cake! Yet it all formally holds together through the artist's use of color, shape, and the visual repetition of plastic decorative elements. The abundance of pastels and pinks complement delicate ceramic teapots and cups. And the cake-like form is topped with an altered found-porcelain figurine of a woman who has been graffitied with words often used to define the role of women in society. The figurine is enclosed within a simplified form of a house which reads as a cage or prison. Everything is exploding out from the center—to me symbolizing a severing from traditional, patriarchal ideas of women's roles. It's a captured moment of change and transformation—a wonderful message and such an energizing and layered work!

THANK YOU

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped put this show together, and all our members for understanding why we asked you to remove your work early. It made it so much easier to put this impressive show up.

Thank heavens we have the space for all this awesome art work and can display it beautifully.

Special thank you to the members of our Committee, and our President, Anna Kietzman, whose tireless work has brought us to this wonderful space.

Mary Szymczak, Chairperson

PS. If you want to help next year just let me know.