



Pastel Painters Society
of CAPE COD

2023 Annual Meeting

Business Meeting – Dave Kaphammer

Member Show Awards – Val Mandra and Jane Robbins

Artist Talk/Presentation – Jane Robbins

*Please make sure your microphone is muted throughout the meeting.
Use the chat window for communicating*



Pastel Painters Society
of CAPE COD

AWARD WINNERS

Emerging Artist Category

Emerging Artist Category

During my time as an art instructor, I have had the opportunity to see many of my students really grow in their skills and their confidence. And so, I've been encouraging them to get involved and enter shows and put themselves out there. I am thrilled that you now have the opportunity to do so now, with the addition of an Emerging Artist category in this year's Member show. I am really proud of my students that have entered — and everyone else that may have taken this step for the first time. Submitting your work for an exhibit takes courage. Congratulations!

Janet Schwartz, VP, PPSCC



3rd Place — Emerging Artist Category

Margaret H. Lanahan, "Happy Days"

The subtlety, freedom, and apparently random but well-considered marks that make up the leaves in this otherwise exuberant and boldly colored sunflower painting add dimension and draw the viewer in for a closer look. Although they really pop, the minimalist treatment of the foreground flowers allows the more complex background to hold its own, and arguably create a doorway into the background, making for a well-balanced juxtaposition of loud and quiet.



2nd Place — Emerging Artist Category

Luisa Gabriela Guzman, "The Cool Life"

The advanced color handling and mark-making in this painting do the work of communicating form, light, and a variety of texture, from velvety to fluffy, from shadowed to translucent to glowing. Everything, including the exciting little piece of straw in the animal's mouth, shows skill, confidence, and personal vision. A languid expression rounds out this fun painting. The Cool Life has the fresh, unlabored feel of the work of an artist who knows what she's doing, and enjoys doing it.



1st Place — Emerging Artist Category

Janet Zabalski, "The Happy Place"

I'm there: indeed, one of the figures is looking at and sharing the joke with me! This is an instance where the artist's ability to completely capture a moment, and bring the viewer with her, tips the scale in favor of this painting. Combined with complex and accurate but completely natural drawing that manages to convey the ease of the figures; a somewhat rough style that suits the grittiness of a beach and perhaps some windy conditions; the portrayal of cloudy-bright midday light, which is difficult to do well; and the nice directional movement that adds liveliness to the painting, *The Happy Place* takes first place and makes me happy, too.



Pastel Painters Society
of CAPE COD

AWARD WINNERS

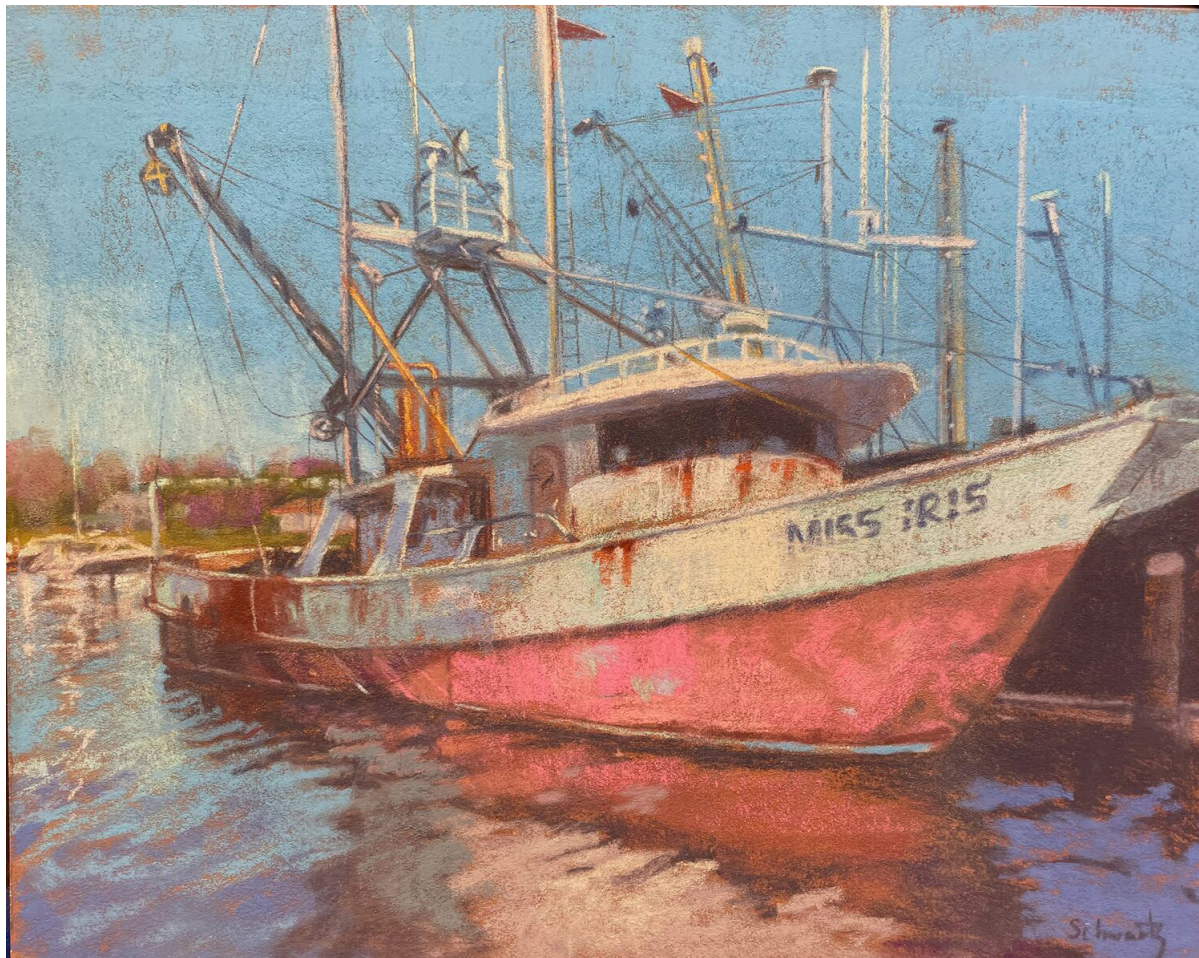
Open Category



Honorable Mention — Open Category

Suzanne Nelson, "The Batter Beater"

Every picture tells a story: I wonder what his is? Meticulous drawing, strong color moving along a diagonal to his arm and up to the face, identifying objects along the way, to an expression I can't quite read.



Honorable Mention — Open Category

Janet Schwartz, "Miss Iris"

The softly lit pinks and blues, and the understated treatment of rust and cables on this old fishing boat and surrounding dockyard, belie the structural complexity of this masterfully rendered boat and its reflections. Miss Iris looks like an old lady with stories to tell.



Honorable Mention — Open Category

Deborah Dicson Shea, "Hey Sunshine"

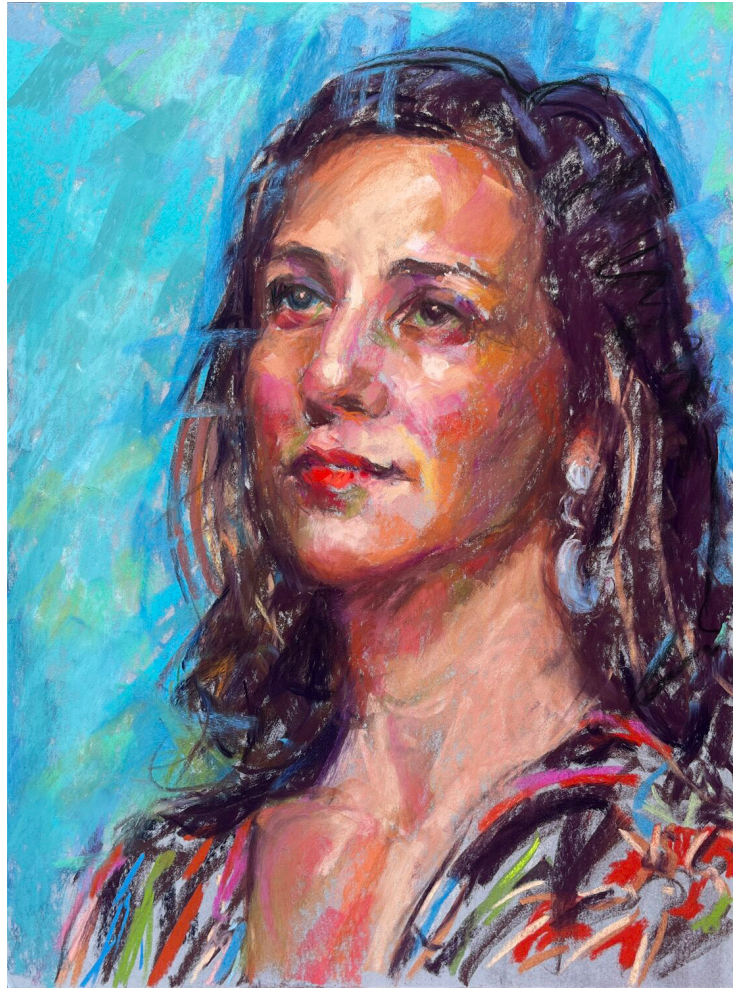
Brilliant color and meticulous drawing and shading in the central cavity of this in-your-face flower grabs your attention and won't let you go. Super-realist without being photographic, this painting would cheer anyone up.



Honorable Mention — Open Category

Alison McMurry, "Copper Kettle"

In this simple, well-drawn still life, a muted palette, interesting edgework, and the flat, battered surfaces of the pots give this painting a sense of place, and its objects a feeling of age and utility, that is soothing.



Honorable Mention — Open Category

Sandra C O'Brien, "Eleanor"

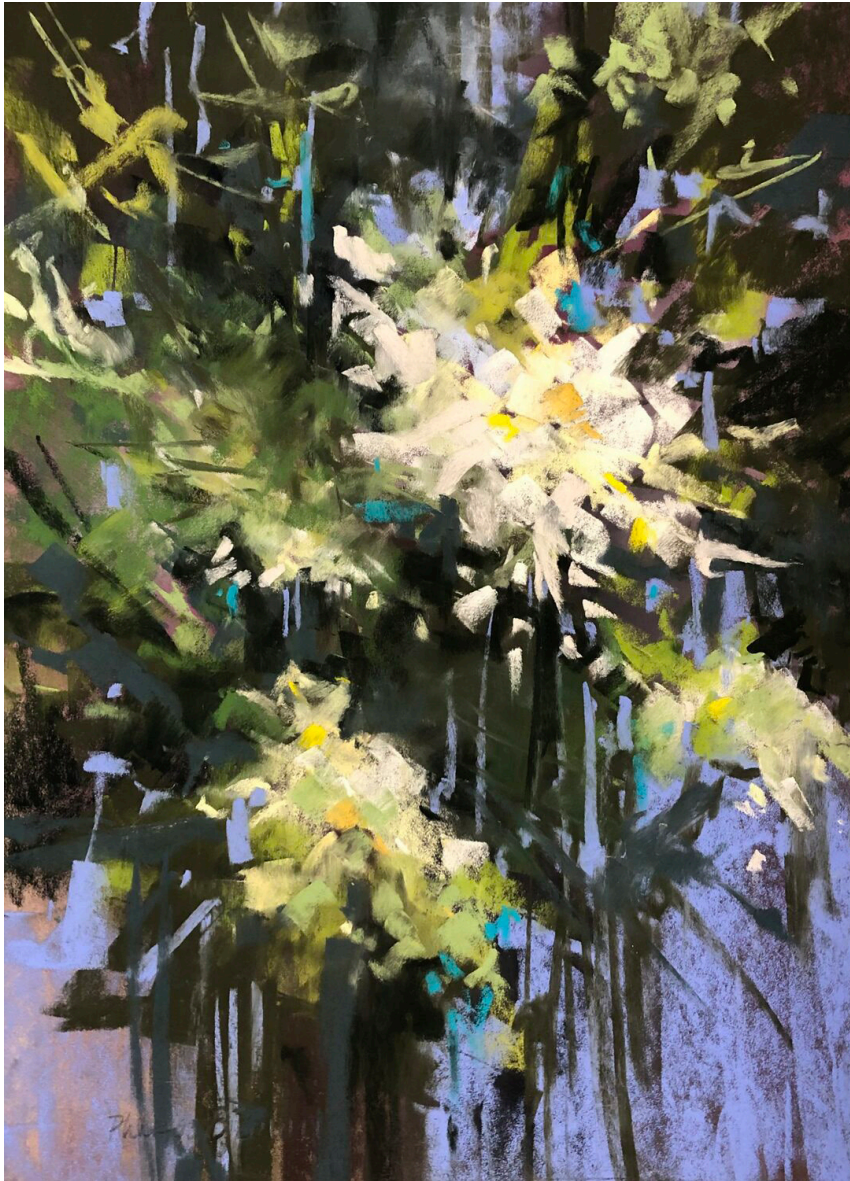
A paradox of a quiet, sensitive portrait achieved through high chroma and strong marks. A lesson in artistic judgment and balance.



3rd Place — Open Category

Dave Kaphammer, "Green"

The simplicity of this painting, in everything from the title "Green" to the straightforward palette and unfussed-over shapes and masses of light and shadow, strikes me as a mark of respect for the artist's subject. This simplicity is what elevates this painting of the everyday to something special, turning a scene that we might otherwise pass by into something worthy of notice and a lesson in authenticity. The composition is a nice interplay of alternating horizontals and verticals—sidewalk, figure and trashbin, stairs, door, lintel, window, roof—with the tall, narrow format of the painting and edge of the building always pulling us to look up. The spareness and restraint with which each element is treated underscores this artist's understanding of and affection for his subject, and his confidence in letting it speak for itself.



2nd Place — Open Category

Laurinda Phakos O'Connor, "Bursting"

"Bursting" is an apt name for this painting, which explodes with light and energy. We can rightly talk about the wonderful mark-making, clean color handling, and pops of color amongst the darks and neutrals for which this artist is justifiably well-known, but the thing that sets this painting apart for me is the composition. The placement of the flowers, their proportion, and their varying treatment is pitch-perfect, their egg-yolk yellow centers definitive of shape and direction. The vertical strokes—I don't know if they are stems or shadows or mostly underpainting drips and I don't care—anchor everything and lend stability to the riotous background. It's an exciting piece.

1st Place — Open Category

Shuk Susan Lee, "For Me It's Always Spring"



There is not a false note in this painting, which is successful on every level—from the beautifully done skintones, with their mirrored warmth of the flowers with cool touches; the loose but elegant treatment of the hair with surprising little dabs of emerald color; the exquisitely handled blouse with its subtle straining over the body and dimly lit coolness with touches of warmth and light in the edges; to the background depth achieved through soft edges and the light and the glowing highlights on the arm, crown, and jewels at the throat and ear. For Me It Is Always Spring is a radiant and deeply romantic painting; it's as if the subject is standing in a bower of magnolia that reflects on the skin with the sky and light—all of nature—peeking through to shine down on and bless her soul. It's a terrific example of what can be achieved with attention to balancing every element and area of a painting; a limited, well-chosen palette; and laser-focused vision on what the artist seeks to convey.

Best in Show

Elizabeth Laflamme, "Gardien de l'aube" (Guardian of the Dawn)



This painting stops you in your tracks, as if you came suddenly face to face to face with this huge buck whose barely visible gaze but entire stance stakes a claim on the territory and the hour, with an unspoken challenge on your right to be there. The crisp relief of the antlers are majestic against the sky in a statement of power, saying everything that needs to be said as we search the minimally worked face and body of the deer in what stops just short of a silhouette. The magnificent tangle of cool grasses speaks of a perhaps disappearing wilderness high above a valley beyond that looks to have been touched by man. While everything in this painting is testament to the artist's skill, her edgework and command of color and color temperature are particularly exceptional. Her capture of dawning light, with its soft dimness and shifting atmosphere and temperature as the sun rises, is masterfully done. Beyond technical excellence, however, this tonal painting's strong narrative arc, somewhat mysterious and magical, pulls you back to not only look at it but also to think about it again and again. This combination of qualities earns *Gardien de l'aube* Best in Show.



Pastel Painters Society
of CAPE COD

Artist Talk/Presentation

Jane Robbins

