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## **Entries Being Accepted for 2021 Juried Art Exhibition, “The Seasons of Mackinac”**

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to announce that entries are being accepted for the 2021 juried art exhibition at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum.

The theme for the exhibition is “The Seasons of Mackinac.” While Mackinac has always been known as a ‘summer gathering place,’ its beauty is unparalleled in all seasons. Artists working in all media are encouraged to share their artistic visions of Mackinac Island and the Straits of Mackinac through the seasons. Subjects may be historic buildings, dramatic limestone formations, tranquil vistas, forested trails, water views, or whatever subject best captures the artist’s vision of Mackinac.

“The annual contemporary art contest continues to support the mission of The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum by encouraging new artistic creations inspired by Mackinac Island,” said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director. “I invite residents and visitors alike to tour the exhibition and enjoy this show during the 2021 season.”

Juror for the show is Bill Murcko. Born and educated in Michigan, Murcko was the President and CFO of Communications Associates, an advertising agency in Troy, Michigan. He was a founding member of Franklin Bank NA, on its Board of Directors, and on the Executive Committee of Franklin Home Lending.

He has had a love of the arts his entire life, serving as a board member on community nonprofit organizations, such as Fan Club for the Arts, Bloomfield Birmingham Art Center, The Scarab Club of Detroit and the Mackinac Arts Council.

He started his formal art training at the age of 48 with a special tutoring program with nationally known portrait painter John Howard Sanden. From there he continued his studies with the New York Academy Art of Arts, The Florence Academy of Arts, Florence, Italy and School of Realist Art, *Les Cerqueux sous Passavant*, France.

Murcko has had various gallery shows throughout the United States, with shows at The Moore Gallery in Birmingham, Michigan and Atlanta, Georgia, Haynes Galleries in Nashville and Thomaston, Maine and a one man show at The Principle Gallery in Alexandria, Virginia. He has been juried into various art exhibitions, winning first place twice in Birmingham Our Town Art Show, four Gold Medals and a Silver Medal from the Scarab Club in Detroit, and a Gold Medal from The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum exhibition. He has also been featured in art magazines – *Art Collector Magazine*, *The Artist's Magazine*, *Professional Artist Magazine* and various other publications.

Murcko was instrumental in implementing the debut juried exhibition at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Museum twelve years ago. He now splits his time between Arizona and Mackinac Island, where he has been a summer resident for 39 years.

Murcko will select a single Best of Show, second and third place, and three honorable mention awardees from the pieces displayed in the exhibition. Winners will be announced at the June 16, 2021 awards ceremony on Mackinac Island. The Best of Show winner will receive The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum Gold Medal and \$2,500 cash prize. Their name will be added to the list of annual Gold Medal winners, which is displayed at the museum. The second and third place winners will receive cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$750, respectively, and the three honorable mentions will receive cash prizes of \$250 each. All prizes are donated by the Mackinac Arts Council and Mackinac Associates.

All media of artwork will be accepted from living artists, including photography, paint, sculpture and others. Artwork must have been completed within the last two years. No artwork that has been

selected as a finalist in previous juried exhibitions will be accepted. Artists are encouraged to submit more than one artwork, but no more than three will be accepted. Participation is open to all artists, nationally and internationally, who are 18 years of age or older. Artwork selected for inclusion in the exhibition may be available for sale with permission of the artist.

All entries must be submitted electronically at <https://www.mackinacparks.com/art-contest/>. Up to three entries can be submitted, and there is a non-refundable entry fee of \$25 for each entry. Deadline for submissions is March 5 at 5:00 p.m. A downloadable version of this release can be found here. Photos are available by request.

*Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).*

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