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Winners Announced for “The Seasons of Mackinac” Art Exhibition at Manoogian Art Museum

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 juried art exhibition, “The Seasons of Mackinac,” at The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum.

Longtime island resident and accomplished artist Bill Murcko served as juror and selected “Promenade,” by Trish Morgan as best in show. As the overall winner, Morgan will receive The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum Gold Medal and a \$2,500 cash prize. Her name will also be added to the list of annual Gold Medal winners, which is displayed in the museum.

“Early Late,” by Mary Bea McWatters, was named second place, and “A Haunting at the Grand Hotel,” by Gail Chirco, finished third. Three honorable mentions were also selected: “Christmas Season,” by Diane Neyer, “Covid-19 Spring on Main Street,” by Robert McGreevy, and “Catch Your Breath at the Top,” by Shannon Westblade.

The second and third place winners receive cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$750, respectively, and the three honorable mention winners will receive cash prizes of \$250 each. All prizes are donated by the Mackinac Arts Council and Mackinac Associates.

In his remarks, Murcko praised the artists for taking the chance on entering a contest, and described that agonizing time for an artist once they’ve submitted a piece, to finding out it’s been selected

for the show, and, finally, finding out it's been chosen as an award winner. He also highlighted that winning this juried art exhibition is more than just a cash prize and a gold medal.

"It's a legacy," he said. "Your name is going to be on a plaque that's in that museum that will be lasting for your grandchildren to come through and your great-grandchildren to come through, and they're going to point and admire."

The pieces will be on display in the museum through Sunday, October 10 in the second floor gallery. Admission to the museum is \$8.50 for adults and \$5.50 for children ages 5-12 and includes Historic Downtown Mackinac and the Biddle House, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum. Admission to the museum is also included with a Fort Mackinac ticket, and is complimentary to overnight guests of Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau-member hotels.

"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 these wonderful Mackinac-inspired works of art."

Mackinac State Historic Parks is also excited to announce the theme for the 2021 art contest: "Mackinac Journeys." Every Mackinac journey is unique. From lifelong residents to the novice first-timer, the journey to, around, and from Mackinac is always memorable. We encourage artists working in all media to share with us their artistic visions of what a Mackinac journey means to them.

A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#).

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 on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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