

NEWS RELEASE

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Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Adkins Arboretum's 2017 Juried Art Show, on View through March 31

Playful, beautiful, zesty and often reverent, the artworks in *Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore*, Adkins Arboretum's eighteenth annual Juried Art Show, speak about the remarkable variety of ways we look at nature on the Eastern Shore. On view in the Arboretum Visitor's Center through March 31, this show also brings together a remarkable variety of mediums, including acrylic, oil, pastel, charcoal, collage, photography, monoprint, etching, ceramics, stained glass, metal sculpture and dried plant materials.

The show was juried by Katherine Markoski, Ph.D., Director of the Kohl Gallery and Lecturer in Art History at Washington College. Both she and the artists will be on hand for a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 11 to talk with visitors about the work in the show.

From entries submitted by artists from Maryland, Virginia, New York and Washington, D.C., Markoski chose 31 works for this show.

"I was thinking in terms of the strength of the work and how compelling the interpretation of the subject was," she said. "It was interesting to me to include a range of media that demonstrates the many different ways that you could come at this particular topic."

Markoski awarded the annual first-prize Leon Andrus Award, named in honor of the Arboretum's first benefactor, to "Chives," a large, close-up photograph of a chive blossom printed in soft, subtle shades of brown on Japanese kitikata paper by Washington artist Paige Billin-Frye.



"Chives" (top), by Washington, D.C., artist Paige Billin-Frye, and "Sun Stream" (bottom), by Easton artist Diane DuBois Mullaly, received first and second prizes, respectively, in Adkins Arboretum's eighteenth Juried Art Show.

"It's like a meditation," Markoski said. "I think it's compelling how the delicacy of the paper it's printed on underscores the delicacy of the image. The way it's presented has an incredible amount to do with its strength. It's almost a portrait, in a sense, and creates a direct conversation with this single flower that's part of the natural world."

Second prize was awarded to Easton artist Diane DuBois Mullaly's "Sun Stream," a tiny oil painting of a rising sun spilling its light over meadow flowers.

"There's something optimistic about it," Markoski explained. "You feel the sun pulsating. It feels like light, even as it's definitely paint. I think it packs a strong punch for its size. It feels to me like there's no way another scale would have been effective."

In keeping with her interest in showcasing a variety of mediums and approaches, Markoski chose a large wall sculpture and a colorful digital photograph to receive Honorable Mention awards.

The sculpture "Eclipse," by Baltimore artist Marcia Wolfson Ray, is a virtual explosion of charred and broken pieces of pine whose jagged, curving forms are just barely contained within a series of 15 open "boxes" constructed from dried plants and hung in a grid.

Markoski said, "I like the way this rigid framing powerfully underscores the unruliness of the individual units themselves."

Of the photograph, which Chestertown artist Richard Hall took by zooming in on the swirls of bright blue water and green algae flowing through the grasses in the Arboretum's wetland, Markoski said, "The painterly quality of it is striking. It's an interesting metaphor for the intermixing of materials in our waterways. You could read it as a potential source of beauty but also a harbinger of terrible things to come, so it makes you think, what's the nature of that particular flow? I think this one is conceptually rich in terms of the questions it might elicit."

This show is part of Adkins Arboretum's ongoing exhibition series of work on natural themes by regional artists. It is on view through March 31 at the Arboretum Visitor's Center located at 12610 Eveland Road near Tuckahoe State Park in Ridgely. Contact the Arboretum at 410-634-2847, ext. 0 or info@adkinsarboretum.org for gallery hours.

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Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve at the headwaters of the Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County. Open year round, the Arboretum is the region's resource for native plants and education programs about nature, ecology and wildlife conservation gardening. For more information, visit adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.

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