

One Square Mile exhibition draws diverse array of neighborhood views



The Cedarburg Art Museum's *One Square Mile: My Neighborhood* is the museum's eighth annual juried exhibition and is on display September 30, 2021 through January 9, 2022. Evelyn Patricia Terry of Milwaukee was the juror who helped discern 85 accepted artworks from 140 digital entries. Later, after viewing the artwork at the museum, Terry, an artist/printmaker, arts writer, gallery owner, and guest curator, determined awards for six artworks in the exhibition. For this exhibition, artists were challenged to find inspiration within one square mile of home, revealing aspects of their neighborhood that may have been overlooked previously. All works were to be square in format.



The Best of Show award was bestowed upon a square, expandable, artist-made book with accordion folds called *Welcome to My Neighborhood* by Bruce Hustad, Cedarburg (shown above). His detailed, graphite drawing of houses on his street was accompanied by a history of homes of nearby neighbors that the artist has known since moving there in 1974. Darlene Rzezotarski of Shorewood garnered the Second Place Award with her bas relief ceramic piece *Virtual Pilgrimage 2020* (at left) that depicts a multi-segmented walk through her neighborhood while doing a virtual pilgrimage with a digital application that simultaneously mapped her progress through a European trek. Repeating motifs of living creatures encountered on a neighborhood walk coordinate with markers of European landmarks from the virtual pilgrimage.

Repeating motifs of live creatures encountered on the neighborhood walk add to a unified, whimsical statement.

The Third Place Award was given to Vicki Reed for her archival digital photographic print "*Ghost Island*" (shown at right) that captures a mysterious island in the Cedar Creek on a foggy day near her Cedarburg home. Capturing fog was a favored way for this photographic artist to represent observations closer to home amidst the COVID pandemic. A wide range of tones and capturing a mood were praised by the juror.





Honorable Mention Awards were given to three artists. May Klisch, Shorewood, was recognized for her *Grit and Graffiti*, an abstract painting and mixed media work (shown at left) that represents the disarray and clutter amidst her Milwaukee studio setting. Gina Studelska, Grafton, created a mixed media collage *Red Winged Blackbird Returns* (shown at right) with acrylic paint and post-consumer textiles with hand and machine stitching. Her creation represents her observations of nature during the change of seasons. Jennifer Meier,



Mequon, was lauded for her acrylic and graphite abstract piece *Wayfinding* (shown below). Its process of mark making, painting over, or wiping away, and reapplication was an analogy for memory, time, and change during a self-reflective period.



A generous, anonymous sponsor provided \$1,000 for the six awards.

While the theme did not specifically reference the COVID-19 pandemic, many artists found solace in discovering under-appreciated areas close to home, often on daily walks, or when they found more time to make observations in their neighborhood. Art in this exhibition represents rural farming areas in our state, natural areas such as parks and nature preserves, urban scenes, and small-town life. Mother Nature was often a restorative subject for many, while others focused on honing a specific process that was experimental or important to try. The range of media utilized by the

61 regional artists includes oil, acrylic, watercolor, encaustic, and pastel painting; graphite drawing; ceramic and resin sculpture; analog, digital, encaustic, and pinhole photography; quilted and collaged fiber art; and various mixed media. The range of subject matter and media in this exhibition is a tribute to the vibrant, dynamic, and diverse arts community in our region and state.

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