



**Fine Arts Competition  
Preview and Awards Night  
October 5, 2025**

**Nancy Smith, General Manager  
Craig Houston, Fine Art Superintendent**

Sponsored in part by:



**First Citizens Bank**

# **BEST OF SHOW**

**PROFESSIONAL: \$5,000**

**Jessica Raines      Palmetto Over Folly Beach**

**AMATEUR: \$3,000**

**Kromuel Alcantara      Framed Infinity**

## **PURCHASE AWARDS**



**First Citizens Bank**

**PROFESSIONAL: \$1,000**

**George Stone      Saluda Sunset**

**AMATEUR: \$500**

**Tammy Ayala      Shem Creek Royalty**



**Professional: \$2000**

**Laurie McIntosh      The White Pelicans**

**Amateur: \$1000**

**David Sloan      Edisto Rhythm**

# **SPIRIT OF CAROLINA AWARDS**

Professional: \$1,000

Todd Baxter                      Presbyterian On Edisto

Amateur: \$500

Geniveve Hanson                      Untitled

## **Roots in Agriculture Award**

Professional \$500: Francis Willits, THREE SISTERS

Amateur \$250: Lise Obelenus, Peaches

## **Scenes of South Carolina Award**

Professional \$500: Philip Rusnak, Front Row

Amateur \$250: Oswaldo Tapia, Downtown Newberry

## **South Carolina State Fair Tradition Award**

Professional \$500: Sean Madden, In a Fish Bowl

Amateur \$250: Shannon Newton, Admit Two

# **BEST OF DIVISIONS – PROFESSIONAL**

## **\$600**

2D: Alvin Staley,  
Born Behind The Eight Ball

3D: Lisa Alberghini, Ziolin

Photography: Jessica Bosshardt,  
Heirloom Portrait

## **PROFESSIONAL DIVISIONS**

*Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$400, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$300*

### **DIVISION – 2-D 101 Acrylics**

- |   |                |                     |
|---|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Najee Reese    | preecha boi         |
| 2 | Tommy Thompson | Urban renewal #8    |
| 3 | Pete Holland   | SC State House Dome |

### **DIVISION – 2-D 102 Watercolor**

- |   |               |                            |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Lisa Pope     | Floral Tapestry            |
| 2 | Bob Graham    | The Little One             |
| 3 | Kathy Caudill | Hay Bales and Wild Flowers |

### **DIVISION – 2-D 103 Oils**

- |   |                  |                            |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Karen Langley    | Pick up Sticks             |
| 2 | Dale Weatherford | Self Portrait with Palette |
| 3 | John Derhammer   | Congaree                   |

### **DIVISION – 2-D 104 Drawing**

- |   |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Todd Baxter     | Naomi Study One |
| 2 | Gretchen Parker | Washed Up       |
| 3 | Shaina Manuel   | Untitled        |

### **DIVISION – 2-D 105 Mixed Media**

- |   |                |                     |
|---|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Seth Scheving  | Honor               |
| 2 | Hannah Clayton | Palmetto Bowl 2024  |
| 3 | Blakely Sheely | Dystopian Landscape |

### **DIVISION – 2-D 106 Prints**

- |   |                 |                    |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Laurie McIntosh | Jelly Dance        |
| 2 | Laurie McIntosh | The White Pelicans |
| 3 | Jane Ann Sweeny | Current            |

### **DIVISION – 2-D 107 Digital Art**

- |   |                 |                      |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Geoffrey Harris | Lost In Space        |
| 2 | Geoffrey Harris | Cosmic Chaos         |
| 3 | Suzette Inman   | Whispers to the Moon |

### **DIVISION – 3D 201 – Ceramics and Pottery**

- |   |                      |                    |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Debbie Whitsett      | The Traveler       |
| 2 | Judy Cox             | Dragonfly bowl set |
| 3 | Bohumila Augustinova | Vessel             |

### **DIVISION – 3D 202 – Open Media**

- |   |               |                        |
|---|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Dianne Neil   | Virtuoso               |
| 2 | Andrea Morris | The Mist of Twin Falls |

### **DIVISION – 3D 203 – Sculpture**

- |   |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Jack Dague       | Birdcage         |
| 2 | Jack Dague       | Breaking Bricks  |
| 3 | Eduardo Oliveira | Thorlock Rotfang |

### **DIVISION – PHOTOGRAPHY 301 – B&W or Sepia**

- |   |                  |                            |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Russell Jeffcoat | Grace                      |
| 2 | Raymond Murray   | Docked in the Carolina Fog |
| 3 | Sean Hartman     | Ebb and Flow               |

### **DIVISION – PHOTOGRAPHY 302 – Color**

- |   |                 |                              |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Johnathan Rabon | Lunch Time                   |
| 2 | Laura Driscoll  | When Icarus Fell             |
| 3 | Chase Daigle    | Congaree NP [665nm Color IR] |

## **2025 PROFESSIONAL ART MERIT AWARDS**

Madison Behnke  
Matthew Bell  
Elizabeth Borowsky  
Mark Conrardy  
Robin Counts  
Derrick Davis  
Irene Dumas Tyson  
Loretta Fouche Smith (2)  
Denise Greer  
Jared Hill  
Joong Kim (2)  
Judy Maples  
Jon Moore  
Kathryn Morganelli  
Raymond Murray  
Chris Nostrant  
Elysse Ohiser  
Lisa Pope  
Cindy Scott  
Renwick Shealy  
Rachel Varner

## **BEST OF DIVISIONS – AMATEUR \$300**

2D: Elizabeth Churchill,  
All Around the Garden

3D: Susanna Austin, Lipstick On A Pig

Photography: Kevin Travis,  
Time Stand Still

### **AMATEUR DIVISIONS**

*Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$250, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$150*

#### **DIVISION – 2-D 601 Acrylics**

- |   |               |                 |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Rylee O’Leary | Lost at Thought |
| 2 | Lise Obelenus | Peaches         |
| 3 | Katie Free    | Big Belle Blue  |

#### **DIVISION – 2-D 602 Watercolor**

- |   |                |                            |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Garland Gooden | Barn Near Otselik New York |
| 2 | Janie Kronk    | She's a Little Teapot      |
| 3 | Anna McAteer   | Coming Home                |

#### **DIVISION – 2-D 603 Oils**

- |   |               |                  |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| 1 | David Sloan   | Good Day Done    |
| 2 | Manning Smith | Summer Savory    |
| 3 | Luiza Somodi  | Lost in the Mist |

#### **DIVISION – 2-D 604 Drawing**

- |   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Julie Weaver      | The Good Old Days |
| 2 | Russell Harvin Jr | Bound             |
| 3 | Vic Boykin        | Reckless          |

### **DIVISION – 2-D 605 Mixed Media**

- |   |               |                               |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Max Hardy     | Dot Mass                      |
| 2 | Kathleen Boyd | Lady Harietta: Her Royal Hare |
| 3 | Sean Lafaye   | Abstract Identity             |

### **DIVISION – 2D 606 – Prints**

- |   |                  |                   |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Jeremy Dickerson | UNTITLED          |
| 2 | Tyler Greenlee   | Sign of the Times |

### **DIVISION – 2D 607 – Digital Art**

- |   |                  |                          |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Priscilla Torres | Greetings from Soda City |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|

### **DIVISION – 3D 701 – Ceramics and Pottery**

- |   |               |                |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Debbie Patwin | Yuck!!!        |
| 2 | Jennifer Dowd | Nadi Tides     |
| 3 | Catie Martin  | Herb and Betty |

### **DIVISION – 3D 702 – Open Media**

- |   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Doug Fordham      | Cherry/Walnut Urn |
| 2 | Stacey Overstreet | Albert's SOS      |
| 3 | Aden Johnson      | Delilah           |

### **DIVISION – 3D 703 – Sculpture**

- |   |                    |                |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Morgan Chamberlain | Reclamation    |
| 2 | Madeline Broadway  | Farm Landscape |
| 3 | Catie Martin       | Rock Monster   |

### **DIVISION – PHOTOGRAPHY 801 – B&W or Sepia**

- |   |                  |                             |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Scott Matthews   | Glide                       |
| 2 | Jackson Campbell | Longhorn No. 7              |
| 3 | Emily Clelland   | Symphony of Steel and Light |

### **DIVISION – PHOTOGRAPHY 802 – Color**

- |   |                 |                       |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Kevin Travis    | Dark Side of the Dune |
| 2 | Windy Cole      | Farm Life             |
| 3 | Matthew Souther | Breaching the Blue    |



## **2025 AMATEUR ART MERIT AWARDS**

Joanna Alford

Travis Bannister

ReNée Bixler

Codyrose Bowden

Lindsey Burkhardt

Adam Catoe

Michael Dean Chavious

Laurel Dickerson

Carol Elliott

Doug Fordham

Erica Greene

Rachel Hartness

Carol Koestline

Rajas Londhe

Tracy Martin

John Nelson

Ashley Oakey

Roxanne Poole

Christine Rapczyk

Kynsley Robbs

David Sloan

Oswaldo Tapia

Jean Thomas

<b><u>FINE ART ENTRIES</u></b>	<b><u>REGISTERED</u></b>	<b><u>DELIVERED</u></b>
Professional	665	554
Amateur	1029	678
Totals	1,694	1,232

### **SC STATE FAIR FINE ART STAFF**

**Craig Houston**, Superintendent

Joseph Cline Brazell Jr.  
 Shirley C. Britton  
 Al V. Brown Jr.  
 Maureen M. Carter  
 Renea H. Eshleman  
 J. Ashley Fleshman  
 Carl A Foster  
 Henry D. Foster Jr.  
 Barbara Karen T. Fox  
 Barb Jane Hoffer  
 J. Craig Houston  
 Roy P. Ingle Jr.  
 John B. Ingwersen  
 Melodie L. Ingwersen  
 Shirley A. Long  
 Margaret M. Shelburg  
 Amelia J. Smith  
 Gregory Ernst Summers  
 G. Bruce Thomas  
 Rosemary K. Thomas  
 Robert G. Thompson

## Judges Remarks:

### **Adam Justice, Charlotte, NC**

Director of Galleries, College of Arts and Architecture, UNC  
Charlotte

*“Judging an art exhibition is always a wonderful eye-opening experience; to learn about new artists and see the degree of creative talent living and working all around us is always a rewarding opportunity for me. This specific occasion was certainly no different. It was a pleasure to spend quality time looking at all the works in this year’s South Carolina State Fair fine art competition. I commend each artist who submitted work for consideration. It is not easy to put yourself out there as an artist; it’s a step of voluntary vulnerability that takes courage and dedication to make. I have such deep respect for these artists for taking that step and I thank them for sharing it with me. The diversity and quality of works in this exhibition are examples of South Carolina’s vivacious creative community. For some, this may be an unfamiliar side of South Carolina, and I applaud the artists and the fair’s organizers for creating the opportunity for us all to relish in the beauty and ingenuity that flourishes throughout the state. Congratulations to all the exhibiting artists! Please keep your creative energies flowing and continue to inspire us!”*

### **Holly Mathews, Savannah, GA**

Painting Professor, Savannah College of Art and Design

“It was a true privilege to serve as a juror for this year’s South Carolina State Fair art competition. The breadth and quality of work submitted were exceptional, and I commend every artist who entered for their effort, creativity, and courage in sharing their work. There were many standout pieces across categories, and my fellow judges and I found ourselves engaged in thoughtful, and at times difficult, deliberations when awarding prizes. In our evaluation process, we consider several key criteria: technical proficiency, thoughtful use of materials, a clear understanding and application of the principles of design, effective color harmony, and a compelling and well-executed concept. Each piece is assessed within its category, but we also strive to consider the broader artistic voice and vision present in the work. One piece of advice I would offer to emerging artists is this: avoid the trap of being derivative. There is a distinct difference between being inspired by another artist and merely replicating their style. As judges, we are well-versed in art history and contemporary practice, and it becomes immediately apparent when a work is imitating rather than innovating. While technical skill is valued, authenticity and originality carry significant weight. We are looking to see your voice, your unique perspective and interpretation, expressed through your chosen medium.

Let your lived experience and creative vision be the foundation of your work. Thank you again to all who participated. It was an honor to witness the incredible talent present in this year's competition.”

**Mary Louise Rabese, Raleigh, NC**

Professional Photographer, Bella Vista Photography

*“It was an honor and a joy to judge the photography competition at the 2025 SC State Fair. I’m sure the photographers who entered this year’s competition are happy to know that their work was judged by a working photographer who can appreciate the skill required in capturing, editing and printing photography. This year’s images represented a broad range of subject matter and locations from across the globe making for a dynamic and interesting show. In each category, from color to monochrome and professional to amateur, there were high-quality images making the final selection of awards challenging and required deliberation on a variety of factors from technical execution, composition and use of light, creativity /uniqueness of voice, and quality of editing, printing and presentation. I’d like to express my congratulations to all who entered the photography competition and to the winning artists whose work validates photography as a sophisticated, nuanced and expressive medium.”*