

Arts & Exhibitions Committee 2020 Annual Report

2020 has proven to be such an unexpected and challenging year. The Committee worked diligently in January to work out an exciting schedule for this year's events. Much thought was concentrated on not having any of our special events conflict with other events happening in the Cape Ann area. We were hopeful of having the best season ever!

Then... COVID-19 appeared. The Board of Trustees met virtually in June to discuss the 2020 season and what would be the optimal plan for NSAA this year. The majority felt that the risk for the staff, volunteers and visitors was too great for NSAA to open at all this season. The heart-breaking decision was made by vote at that meeting to remain closed until 2021.

In an effort to maintain a solid and meaningful relationship with our members, it was decided to concentrate on presenting members' work in on-line exhibitions. Interim Gallery Director, Linda Cote, who had planned on retiring this year, but has loyally remained with us in our hour of need, has done an exceptional job in organizing the exhibitions and jurying process.

Three jurors are chosen from the Exhibition Jury elected at last year's Annual Meeting. Photos of the paintings are e-mailed to the jurors with only a number to identify them. The jurors choose their favorite 10 images. The results are tabulated by the Interim Gallery Director, Linda Cote and the President, Judy Metcalfe. At no time do the jurors know how the other jurors have voted. Paintings that have received more than one vote are grouped together and sent back to the jurors who then make their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. Sometimes the winners easily stand out and other times it takes a third run to get it narrowed down.

The number of submissions has grown with each exhibition. The Associate Members have also been given the opportunity to have their own exhibitions and have responded favorably.

We are working on the best ways to promote these exhibitions in hopes of increasing the visitors to our web-site and Facebook page. One action we can all be taking is to share the on-line gallery, CONNECTED, on our own Facebook pages. This alone would increase the number of viewers and possible buyers very quickly.

We are cautiously optimistic that the schedule we had worked out for 2020 will transfer easily to 2021 and look forward to being together with all our members again, particularly for special events.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Gray & Marion Hall
Arts & Exhibitions Co-Chairs