

NEWS RELEASE

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Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Adkins Arboretum's 2013 Art Competition show, on view through March 29

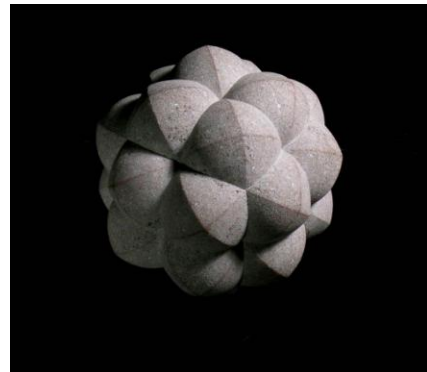
You might expect *Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore*, Adkins Arboretum's fourteenth annual Art Competition, to be a show of landscape paintings, but this exhibit offers much more. On view in the Arboretum Visitor's Center through March 29, it's full of surprises. On Sat., Feb. 16, there will be a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. to meet the artists and this year's juror, Alex Castro, Adjunct Professor of Art at Washington College.

Castro's teaching philosophy emphasizes the probing, searching quality of the creative process. From the 129 submissions from artists in eight states, he chose 22 works.

"I was looking mainly for freshness, energy and whether I learned something that I hadn't seen before," he said. "That's high marks for me."

Castro awarded the annual Leon Andrus Awards, named for the Arboretum's first benefactor, to two of the artists. First prize went to College Park sculptor Allen Linder for his three marble spheres, each geometrically divided into equal curved segments. With titles such as "24 Division Seed," they refer to the very early stages of a developing plant and resemble the curious Neolithic carved balls found in Scotland. Precisely carved and smoothly polished, each has a mysterious feeling of potential about to erupt.

"March," an iPhone photograph by Karen Klinedinst of Baltimore, won second prize. Storm damaged but still growing, its two crisply delineated, bare trees stand in a meadow greening with spring. Again, the trees have a sense of compressed energy ready to burst into life. Klinedinst's work will be featured in a solo show at the Arboretum this June and July.



"24 Division Seed" by Allen Linder



"March" by Karen Klinedinst

Although the prizewinning works are very different, Castro noted, “Each one contracts and expands in its own way. There’s a fascinating tension.”

“Lewes Lighthouse,” a small, beautifully rendered aquatint by Stevensville artist Judy Wolgast, was chosen by the Arboretum Art Committee to receive the Marion Price Award for Achievement in the Medium of Drawing or Printmaking. With pastel colors and graceful line work, this print captures the animated rhythm of a dune fence meandering toward the breezy sea. This award is given in honor of artist Marion Price, who initiated the Arboretum’s art exhibit series in 1998.

While this landscape and several others in the show portray familiar scenes of our coastal plain, the show also celebrates many other ways of looking at our environs. Liza Linder, of College Park, offers a close-up view with her elongated glass mosaic in which the tip of a blade of grass just touches a glittering circle—perhaps a dewdrop, perhaps a moon. Marcy R. Edelstein, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is more pragmatic with “Field Notes 2,” a digital collage of a shorebird elegantly striding in front of a birdwatcher’s checklist.

Enthusiasm is more important than technique in Columbia artist Diane Savoie’s painting of a bright-eyed duck wildly flapping its wings, and there’s pure magic in Chestertown artist Emily Kalwaitis’s tiny, delicate vignette of a nature sprite beneath a pine tree. Diverse and energetic, the works in this show open doors to all kinds of art and invite new ways of looking at our native environment.

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 29 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 offers educational programs for all ages about nature and gardening. Through its [Campaign to Build a Green Legacy](#), it will build the [W. Flaccus and Ruth B. Stifel Center at Adkins Arboretum](#) and a “green” entranceway to broaden educational offerings and research initiatives promoting best practices in conservation and land stewardship. For additional information about Arboretum programs, visit www.adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.

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