

## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Adkins Arboretum's 2016 Juried Art Show, on View through April 1***

A sweet gum leaf skates across rippling water, fingers of marshland fringe the shores of broad rivers, and a plain white barn rises above a field of corn under bright puffy clouds. These quintessential scenes of the Eastern Shore are just a few of those to be enjoyed in *Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore*, Adkins Arboretum's seventeenth annual Juried Art Show.



*"Place of Passage," a work on paper by Pamela Phillips of Glyndon, Md., was awarded the first-place Leon Andrus Award in Adkins Arboretum's seventeenth annual Juried Art Show, Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore. The show is on view through April 1.*

On view in the Arboretum Visitor's Center through April 1, this show celebrates the landscapes, waterscapes, birds and animals of the Eastern Shore in a wide variety of works in mediums including watercolor, acrylic, oils, photographs, etching, fiber and dried plants. There will be a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 13 to meet the artists and learn about their work.

This year's show was juried by Anke Van Wagenberg, Ph.D., senior curator at the Academy Art Museum. After coming from the Netherlands to work at the National Gallery of Art and, later, the Walters Art Museum, Van Wagenberg taught art history at Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Washington College.

From the 85 entries submitted by artists from Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C., Van Wagenberg chose 20 works for this show.

Explaining her choices, she said, “There are a couple of things I look for. First, the image has to be catching. Then I go for technique and execution and also presentation. I think that all of these works have that.”

Van Wagenberg awarded the annual first-place Leon Andrus Award, named in honor of the Arboretum’s first benefactor, to “Place of Passage” by Pamela Phillips of Glyndon, Md. A large work on paper, it combines plant materials with acrylic and ink. Flower and leaf forms painted in shadowy black ink seem to watch quietly from one side as small orbs of brilliant color and actual dried flowers and curved twigs dance across its surface.

“I love the materials she used—the flowers, the twigs,” Van Wagenberg commented. “You see nature here, but it’s expressed very differently.”

Second prize went to “Path of Grasses,” a small aquatint etching by Stevensville artist Judy Wolgast that captures the gentle curve of a path between trees and meadow grasses.

“I really like this for the whole composition,” said Van Wagenberg. “Aquatint etching is not an easy technique, and this is so well executed and well presented. I also like the strong contrast between the first and the second prizes: to see an aquatint etching that looks a little Rembrandt-esque and then this totally whimsical piece that reminds me of Miro.”

Van Wagenberg also awarded honorable mentions to two digital photographs. Again, there is a strong contrast between her choices. Detailed nuances of texture and earthy color are captured in Bowie photographer Ann Rohlfing’s intimate shot of a wood frog sitting perfectly camouflaged on a bed of tulip poplar leaves. Very different is “Echinacea, Last Year’s” by Paige Billin-Frye of Washington, D.C. Printed on green-tinted handmade Kitikata paper, this is a dramatically spare image of fallen seed heads casting strange, spiky shadows.

Through their sheer variety, the works in this show speak of the richness and diversity of nature in our familiar Eastern Shore environment. The visions these artists present do much to awaken and celebrate our appreciation of this beautiful region that we share.

This show is part of Adkins Arboretum’s ongoing exhibition series of work on natural themes by regional artists. It is on view through April 1 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](mailto: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, conservation and gardening. For more information about programs, visit [adkinsarboretum.org](http://adkinsarboretum.org) or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.*

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