



# 2020 Winners' Show

Exhibited at [OnlineGalleryShows.com](https://OnlineGalleryShows.com)

January 11—March 26, 2021

## ***Winners' Show Goes Online***

The 2020 ALA Winners' Show opens January 11, 2021 and will run until March 26, 2021 for viewing online at [OnlineGalleryShows.com](https://OnlineGalleryShows.com). This show is the culmination of the competitions held at each of the monthly ALA meetings during the calendar year 2020. The show demonstrates the diversity in media and style of the ALA members.

The Judge for the show was Robert Bean, Department Chair of Drawing and Painting at the Museum School of the Arkansas Arts Center. Robert is an artist and storyteller who uses visual 2-D media and written words creating, as he says, two sides of the same coin. More information about Robert may be found below.

This year's show became the first ever ALA show to go online due to the self-distancing requirements resulting from the Covid pandemic. Patrick Edwards, ALA President, broke new ground for the group by serving as the Show Chair and Show Administrator online. ALA developed some flexibility with doubling up on the competitions during the few monthly meetings that were held so that many paintings—24 total— could be exhibited in the show.

The awards for the show are listed below with excerpts from the judge's critiques.

***Congratulations to all the winners and to the award recipients in the show!***

### ***Our Judge***

Robert Bean, a native Arkansan, fell in love with comic books as a child. Robert's passion for the visual story took him through a degree in studio art from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, exhibitions on a national scale, landing his work in private collections, and more recently into teaching his passion to others at the Museum School of the Arkansas Arts Center. Students in Robert's Museum School classes and at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock will testify to his unique energy for passing on this passion and to his knowledge of the fine art world. As he says on his webpage at [RB Fine Art](https://www.fineart.com), he has been slinging stories on canvas and paper since 1998. You can catch him on Instagram and Facebook, where he writes a weekly blog on Fridays that's must-reading for artists.



## 2020 ALA Winners' Show Awards

### Best In Show - *Bee Boxes on the Arkansas River*

Kay Reed, 12 x 36 Oil

Judge Comments: The artist has created an intense sense of space with the open sky and by placing the primary narrative elements at a distance from the viewer. The repeated forms of the bee boxes create a wonderful rhythm to the visual. The lone figure presents a human aspect, but again, like the repetition of bee boxes and the sense of scale, the size of the figure amplifies the narrative and pulls us into the scene as a whole.



### First Place—*THAT'S NOT ART!!!*

Patrick Edwards, 24 x 48 Oil

Judge Comments: Humor is hard to do visually when you cannot add in auditory clues or movements with it. But this piece pulls off humor easily. It also works well in a sense of creating a commentary on the history of art, and the vast changes that have happened in the last two hundred years. There is a definite sea of difference between the past and contemporary art, and this piece grabs hold of that and does not let go.



### Second Place—*Cadillac Mountain*

Debbie Strobel, 8 x 10 Soft Pastel

Judge Comments: This piece jumps at you, there is no denying it. ...the colors are powerful and grab hold and pull you into the work...This is not a still piece but is vibrant and alive. Those elements are all the more impressive due to the size of the piece, with it only being 8 x 10 in size, a size that usually limits the ability to create that kind of energy with your marks.



### Third Place—*Rusty*

Millie Phillips, 13 x 9 Pencil

Judge Comments: There is a mastery of control over the soft application of graphite in this piece. The artist shows a strong command of value and the ability to render the subject with a high level of skill.



**Honorable Mentions:** *Visitors at Cook's Landing*, Miller Eddie Smith, Acrylic; *Roses*, Anne Parat, Pastel; *Thinking About Tomorrow*, Clarence Cash, Oil.