

2025

JUNE 14 - SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

KALAMAZOO INSTITUTE OF ARTS

WEST
MICHIGAN
AREASHOW



Sebastian Sandu, *Infinitude*, oil on canvas



2025 WMAS JUROR'S STATEMENT

As the juror for the 2025 West Michigan Area Show at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, I'd like to share the criteria I used in making my selections. I looked for original works that demonstrated innovative use of materials and concepts. Equally important was the artist's skill and ability to effectively execute their ideas. Over the past four years, many of us have been grappling with social unrest and searching for a deeper understanding of our shared

humanity. I noticed that many submissions engaged with the human figure across various media. I was particularly drawn to figurative works, as they reflect our ongoing need for social connection and personal interaction. These pieces resonated with me on a profound level.

I also saw works that addressed important cultural issues. In evaluating these, I focused on how clearly and thoughtfully the artists conveyed their ideas. Clarity of vision was essential. All the works were of great quality. However, some specifically stood out and were selected. I carefully reviewed every submission and read each artist's statement. I was deeply impressed by the overall quality and seriousness of the work. To those whose pieces were not selected this time, I encourage you to continue creating and refining your art—your voices matter, and your work is valued.

-Hubert Massey, 2025 WMAS Juror



2025 DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Each spring, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts transforms its galleries into a celebration of the extraordinary artistic talent that surrounds us. Now in its 64th year, the West Michigan Area Show is a cherished tradition—one that reflects both the strength of our region's creative community and the museum's commitment to supporting local artists.

Over 200 emerging and established artists from across our 14-county region submitted nearly 500 works this year. The resulting exhibition—curated by this year's juror, Hubert Massey—is a dynamic reflection of the voices, visions, and techniques defining contemporary art in West Michigan. Massey's deep connection to public art, mastery of the fresco tradition, and dedication to storytelling bring a thoughtful perspective to the selection process, and we are grateful for his contributions.

This exhibition believes that art, particularly regional artwork, matters. It enriches lives, reflects communities, and offers new perspectives. Featuring a wide range of practices and perspectives, the West Michigan Area Show emphasizes creativity's vital role in shaping our shared culture.

This exhibition is made possible by those who believe in the power of art. We are especially grateful to David Isaacson, who honors the legacy of his late wife, Helen Sheridan, former Director of Exhibitions and Collections at the KIA, with his annual support. We also thank CWS Financial Advisors for their commitment to uplifting the arts in our region. Their sponsorship, along with support from artist guilds, local organizations, and individuals who provide the exhibition's many awards, ensures this tradition continues to thrive.

To all the artists who submitted work, and to those selected: thank you. Your creativity and courage inspire us. To our visitors: I hope you leave this gallery moved, curious, and proud of the artistic excellence in West Michigan.

Let this exhibition celebrate and invite deeper engagement with the talent flourishing in our backyard.

-Michelle Hargrave, KIA Executive Director

2025 AWARD WINNERS

Helen Sheridan Memorial Grand Prize

Sebastian Sandu, *Infinitude*, oil on canvas

Second Place

Kathleen Mills, *Ophelia*, egg tempera

Third Place

Elizabeth Parker, *Arapaho Woman*, red oak, acrylic, and colored pencil

Fourth Place.

Thimgan Hayden, *At the End of The World*, oil on linen canvas

Fifth Place

Amanda Coleman, *Sifa*, oil on canvas

Ward H. and Cora E. Nay Director's Purchase Prize

Lee Ann Frame, *Stopping By*, line etching, aquatint, and relief color roll

Martin Hubbard, *Audubon Meadow D2*, oil on canvas

Art League Award

Stacey Butler, *Lens of Attraction*, mixed media

Eclectic Glass Guild of Southwest Michigan

Judy Hallisy, *Papillon*, blown glass

Kalamazoo Book Arts Center Book, Print, and Paper Award

Rachel Stickney, *Vessel Book 8*, stoneware, handmade paper, waxed thread

Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters' Art Quilt Award

Jacqueline Skarritt, *Building Bridges*, assorted fabrics and thread

The Martin Maddox Prize for Imaginative Realism

Tatsuki Hakoyama, *Feel the Need to Breathe on My Own*, oil on canvas

Ninth Wave Studio Award for Ingenuity in Mixed Media or Intermedia

Gayle Swank Reyes, *Mi Madre: Guia del Guerrero*, mixed media, oil on canvas, and metal work

Portage Community Art Award

Kathleen Mills, *Ophelia*, egg tempera

Southwest Michigan Printmakers Excellence in Printmaking Award

Lee Ann Frame, *Stopping By*, line etching, aquatint, and relief color roll

West Michigan Potters Guild Award for Ceramics

Rachel Stickney, *Vessel Book 8*, stoneware, handmade paper, waxed thread

The People's Choice Award, sponsored by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, will be announced on Friday, July 11.



Kathleen Mills, *Ophelia*, egg tempera

KAYLEE DIRKMAAT
Kent County
Where the Forest Meets the Sea
watercolor

KAYLEE DIRKMAAT
Kent County
Falcon In Ink
ink

SYDNEY DONATH
Kent County
Regal Raptor
colored pencil over watercolor

DOUGLAS DYKEHOUSE
Kalamazoo County
The Waif
oil on canvas

MICHAEL DZIALOWSKI
Kalamazoo County
Untitled
colored pencils

GARY ELDRIDGE
Kent County
She's Got the Music in Her
mixed media assemblage

SUSAN ELLISON
Kent County
Winter Weeds
gouache on Arches paper

ELLIE FOSTER
Allegan County
Lady Wisdom
watercolor

* LEE ANN FRAME
Muskegon County
Stopping By
line etching, aquatint, and relief color roll.

KENNETH FREED
Kalamazoo County
Portrait of Gregory Gillespie with Red Shirt
oil on panel

DAN GIANCASPRO
Kalamazoo County
Identity
copper, brass, and bronze

KAYLA GILLESPIE
Berrien County
Zone
digital art

LINDA GILLESPIE
Calhoun County
Man in the Desert
photography

* TATSUKI HAKOYAMA
Kent County
Feel the Need to Breathe on My Own
oil on canvas

* NATHAN ANDERSON
Ottawa County
The Mourning of Battle
acrylic on linen

JULIE BENDER
Berrien County
Columbia River Gorge
oil

DOUG BOSTIAN
Kent County
Coneflowers and Ragweed
oil

DOUG BOSTIAN
Kent County
Bee Hives
oil

STACEY BUTLER
Allegan County
Lens of Attraction
mixed media

SEONGBAE CHO
Kent County
Biking on the Rainbow
oil on canvas

* AMANDA COLEMAN
Kalamazoo County
Sifa
oil on canvas

CINDY COLEMAN
Kent County
Keepin' Cool
acrylic

JAY CONSTANTINE
Kent County
A Bad Day in Charlottesville
alkyd oil on panel

JAY CONSTANTINE
Kent County
The Trial in Kenosha
alkyd oil on panel

NANCY CRAMPTON
Kalamazoo County
Chicago
linen and wool, hand-forged iron hanger by Dan Crampton

SHANNON DION
Kalamazoo County
Golden Hour
fiber



Elizabeth Parker, *Arapaho Woman*, red oak, acrylic, and colored pencil



Thimgan Hayden, *At the End of The World*, oil on linen canvas

* JUDY HALLISY
Allegan County
Papillon
blown glass

DIANE HAWORTH
Kent County
Grand River Morning
oil

* THIMGAN HAYDEN
Kalamazoo County
At the End of the World
oil on linen canvas

SAMUEL HELMBRECK
Calhoun County
Adjusting
oil on canvas

* MARTIN HUBBARD
Calhoun County
Audubon Meadow D2
oil on canvas

SARAH HUIZENG
Ottawa County
Cottage No. 30
mixed media, acrylic and collage

MARGY HUNTER
Kalamazoo County
Frantic
acrylic

SARAH JOHNSTON
Muskegon County
Succulents in Ink
pen and ink

J.C. KINS
Kalamazoo County
-Others Othering Others-
acrylic paint, graphite, charcoal,
and black ink

COLLEEN KLESMITH
Kent County
A Shining Light
oil stick

MICHAEL KOOLE
Kent County
Still Waiting
photography

MICHAEL E. KUCINICH
Kalamazoo County
Four Trees
photography

GEORGE KUTTNER
Kalamazoo County
Bunker
archival digital print

MARY LANDI
Kalamazoo County
Manhole
gelatin silver print

MARY LANDI
Kalamazoo County
Tilted Door
gelatin silver print

JOHN LEBEN
Allegan County
Elephant Forest
digital

HONORE LEE
Ottawa County
Erosional Remains 3
ink, colored pencil, and wax

SHERRY LIN
Calhoun County
Motherhood
linocut and watercolor

LEON LOU
Kent County
*A Greek-Chinese Translator
Who Understands Neither
Languages*
oil

VICTORIA MARCETTI
Kalamazoo County
*may I have the courage to be
who I say I am*
machine quilting



Amanda Coleman, *Sifa*, oil on canvas

CARY OKORO
Kent County
*Incarnata: Field Tunic with
Seeds for Sowing*
hand-painting on cotton with
linen, thread, and foraged seeds

OLGA ORLOVSKA-
SOALTYS
Berrien County
the fall of the man
oil, reverse painting on glass

MIKE OUDING
Kalamazoo County
Blue Wave
blown glass

JAMES C. PALMORE
Kalamazoo County
A BEGINNING
archival inkjet print on Gator
Board

JAMES C. PALMORE
Kalamazoo County
TRISH
archival inkjet print on Gator
Board

* ELIZABETH PARKER
Calhoun County
*Indian Maiden
with Dandelions*
red oak, acrylic, and
colored pencil

* ELIZABETH PARKER
Calhoun County
Arapaho Woman
red oak, acrylic, and
colored pencil

STONE PENG
Kent County
Morning Jogger and Dog
original fine art photography

JUAN PIMENTEL
Kent County
SERENITY
oils

LEASIA POSEY
Kalamazoo County
The Fool
photography

BETH PURDY
Kent County
Never Wake a Sleeping Baby
collaged paper and oil on panel

ALYSSA RAINWATER
Kalamazoo County
Lukewarm
oil on canvas

ALFIELD REEVES
Kent County
The Souls Of Black Folk
photography

EMILY REGAN
Kalamazoo County
The Cradle of Life
acrylic on canvas

KATHRYN REGEL
Kalamazoo County
Knots of Subjugation
colored pencil with antique
photo on tracing paper

HANK MATTSON
Kalamazoo County
Springtime Cry
color woodcut

PAUL MAY
Kalamazoo County
Triangulation
maple and walnut

MADISON MCKENZIE
Kalamazoo County
Encroachment
lasercut on wood

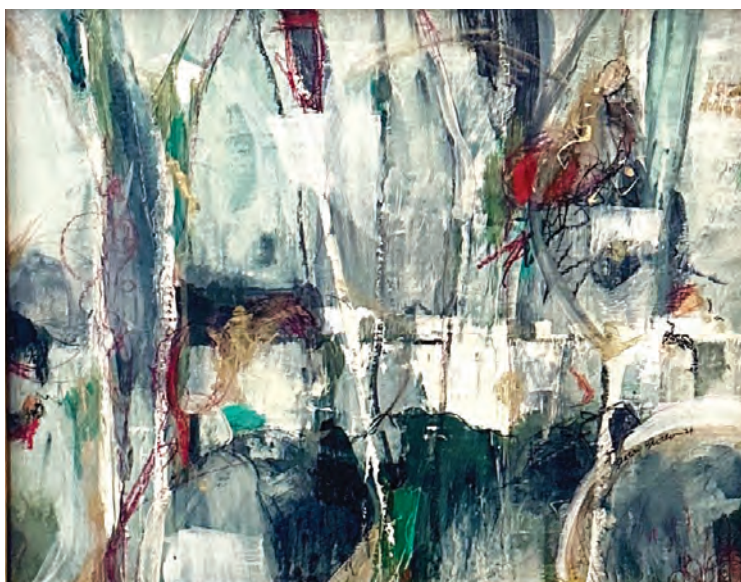
* KATHLEEN MILLS
Kalamazoo County
Ophelia
egg tempera

STAN MYERS
Kent County
Algoma Fields 2
oil on canvas board

STAN MYERS
Kent County
Evening Song
oil on canvas

VICKI NELSON
Kalamazoo County
Water Street
oil on canvas

VICKI NELSON
Kalamazoo County
The Patio
oil on canvas



Stacey Butler, *Lens of Attraction*, mixed media

KATHRYN REGEL
Kalamazoo County
Halloween '61
graphite pencil and hand-cut
collage

* GAYLE SWANK REYES
Kalamazoo County
Mi Madre: Guía del Guerrero
oil painting on canvas and
metalwork

ALISHA RICHARDSON
Kalamazoo County
Catch
marker, colored pencil,
and paint pen

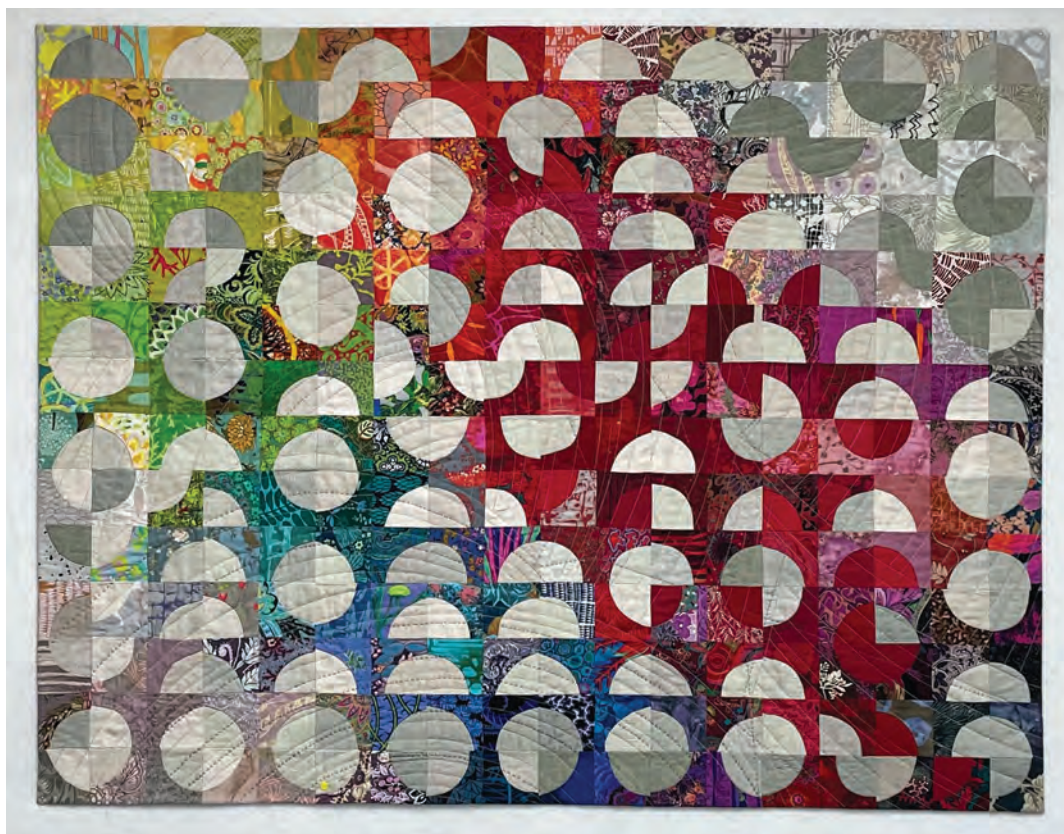
MEL ROMERO
Kalamazoo County
Performative Self
oil paint on canvas

KELLY ROOT
Kalamazoo County
*Falling Michigan 3:
Silver River Falls*
charcoal

PENNY ROSE
Kalamazoo County
*Iris (or This Has Already
Been Done 1.0.2)*
acrylic on canvas

ED RUTOWSKI
Kent County
"The Lost Canals"
oil on canvas

JEANETTE RYBINSKY
Kalamazoo County
A Peaceful Place
oil on Canvas



Jacqueline Skarritt, *Building Bridges*, assorted fabrics and thread



Martin Hubbard, *Audubon Meadow D2*, oil on canvas



Judy Hallisy, *Papillon*, blown glass



Tatsuki Hakoyama, *Feel the Need to Breathe on My Own*, oil on canvas



Gayle Swank Reyes, *Mi Madre: Guia del Guerrero*, mixed media, oil on canvas, and metal work

* SEBASTIAN SANDU
Allegan County
INFINITUDE
oil on Canvas

LINDA SCARBOROUGH
Kent County
Stray Cat
photography

STEVEN SCARBOROUGH
Kent County
Siesta Key
photography

STEVEN SCARBOROUGH
Kent County
Dragonfly
photography

JAMES SCHLAGE
Kalamazoo County
Gardenia
acrylic on stretched canvas

ELAINE SEAMAN
Kalamazoo County
Galaxy Quest
fiber

ELAINE SEAMAN
Kalamazoo County
Goliath's Potholder
fiber

DAVID SILLS
Van Buren County
Petrified Palm Tree Pendant
14k yellow and white gold,
diamonds, petrified palm tree

* JACQUELINE SKARRITT
Kalamazoo County
Building Bridges
assorted fabrics and threads

PATRICIA SMETANA
Kalamazoo County
Star-Lit Garden
fiber

CAROLYN SOWA
Kent County
Solitude
oil

* RACHEL STICKNEY
Kalamazoo County
Vessel Book 8
stoneware, handmade paper,
waxed thread

LAUREN TRIPP
Barry County
Something Wild Calls me Home
silver, copper, and septarian

LOU VALLANCE
Kent County
Below the Tree Line
mixed media, acrylic on canvas

LOU VALLANCE
Kent County
Lone Star
mixed media, acrylic on canvas

LOU VALLANCE
Kent County
Out in the Open
mixed media, acrylic on canvas

ANGIE VAN DYK
Van Buren County
King Eider
photography

KELLY VANDER KLEY
Van Buren County
Still Superior
watercolor

THOMAS VANDERMEULEN
Allegan County
The Wait
photography

ELLEN VANDERMYDE
Kalamazoo County
Gardener of Petals and Pages
acrylic on canvas

JENNIFER VANDERPLOEG
Ottawa County
New Territories
oil on Canvas

JUDY WALTERS
Kalamazoo County
Oranges
pastels

JUDY WALTERS
Kalamazoo County
Waiting
gouache

HEIDI WEISS
Kalamazoo County
Indifference, 1991
oil on Canvas

JONATHAN WIJNBERG
Kalamazoo County
Tomcat Nation
oil on canvas

PETER WILLIAMS
Calhoun County
American Landscape
mixed media

JACKSON WREDE
Kent County
Literally Us
oil on linen panel



KALAMAZOO INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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Additional support provided by David Isaacson in memory of his wife, Helen Sheridan.



Rachel Stickney, *Vessel Book 8*, stoneware, handmade paper, waxed thread



Lee Ann Frame, *Stopping By*, line etching, aquatint, and relief color roll