



**NEW JERSEY
HIGHLANDS
COALITION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**12th Annual New Jersey Highlands Juried Art Exhibit ,Maxfield Engine House in Boonton NJ
Announcement of Award Winners**

Awards for the 12th Annual Highlands Juried Art Exhibit Opening Reception were presented at the opening reception held Sunday, September 21, 2025 at the historic Maxfield Engine House in Boonton, NJ. The exhibit features an impressive mix of photography, paintings, mixed media, prints and sculpture focused on the landscapes, flora, fauna and historic and cultural resources of the four-state Highlands region, with particular emphasis on the New Jersey Highlands. Juried by a panel of prominent local curators, gallerists and artists, the Annual Highlands Exhibits offer artists an opportunity to have their work shown while reaching a wide audience. A virtual exhibit featuring all of this year's artists is currently on display on the Highlands Art web site <https://highlandsart.org/> The exhibit is curated by Donna Compton, Art Program Curator for the NJ Highlands Coalition and Compton Gallery in Boonton.

"We have been doing this for 12 years, and still, there is such a diversity of interpretations of the region's natural beauty and cultural vitality" said Elliott Ruga, Policy and Communications Director at the New Jersey Highlands Coalition. "Congratulations to the winners, although there are so many artist's works here that will grab your attention".

"We are grateful to Genie Birch for once again hosting our exhibit at Maxfield Engine House, " Said curator Donna Compton, "a fittingly beautiful historic landmark worthy of the exceptionally stunning art by the Highlands artists who tirelessly explore these woods and wetlands, rewarding our critical mission to preserve this land and our water, its history and culture."

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

The photographs were judged by Dwight Hiscano, international award-winning photographer and founder of the Annual Highlands Juried Art Exhibit. Award winners include 1st Place, Miroslav Vrzala, Ramsey; 2nd Place Linda Calvet, New York (NY); 3rd Place Jeremy Travers, Hackettstown. Honorable Mention awards were presented to George Aronson, Morristown; Marv Kaminsky, Flanders; Kevin Lee, Montville. Other exhibiting photographers include Peter Aldrich, Boonton Township; Robin Gutkin, Florham Park; Renelle Lorrain, Warwick (NY); Nancy Nicolescu, Morristown; June Filipski, Pittstown; Elaine Norman, Oak Ridge; Lynn Ronan, Midland Park; Brian Satch, Hopatcong; Richard Sharp, Blairstown and Meredith Whitlock, Milford.

FINE ART AWARDS

The fine art was judged by Kristy Jach and Paul Jach, curators and founders of Speakeasy Art Gallery in Boonton, NJ. Award winners include 1st Place Todd Doney, Gillette; 2nd Place Linda Aldrich, Boonton Township; 3rd Place Alexandra Jurchescu, Hackettstown. Honorable Mention awards include Doris Ettlinger, Hampton; Paula Pearl, Fanwood; Jack Quinn, Morris Plains; Madeline Taranto, Washington and Barry Zawacki, Boonton. Other exhibiting fine artists include Jane Biron, Chester; Barbara Post Campbell, Highland Lakes; Laura Gardner, Morristown; Laurie Harden, Boonton; Susan Holford, Madison; Justine Perdunn Kovacs, Green Village; Lisa Madson, White House Station; Michael McFadden, Hampton; Tricia Goginsky, Randolph; Kim Parker, Stockholm; Lisa Quatrocchi, Clifton; Julie Rogers, Sparta; Azita Shahidi, Oradel; Vicky Smith, Asbury and Keith Vogrin, Bethlehem (PA).

The exhibit will be on display until December 7, 2025. Artwork is for sale, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the New Jersey Highlands Coalition.

Information: 973-910-2400 email: highlandsart@njhighlandscoalition.org

web site: <http://www.highlandsart.org>

Visitors are welcome during regular visiting hours: <https://highlandsart.org/contact-hours-directions>

The artists who are inspired by the natural beauty of the Highlands region of NJ, NY, PA & CT are advocates for protecting the Highlands natural and cultural resources as much as we who strive to protect the region's water resources. Beauty is worth fighting for to protect. The landscapes of the Highlands, the great biodiversity of plants and animals, the broken, half-hidden remnants of the early industrial age that has since returned to forest, the granite outcrops and strewn, truck-sized boulders deposited by the glaciers, the cold and deep glacial lakes and ancient rivers, the narrow valleys crossed by patinated iron truss bridges, the undulating farm fields and wildflower meadows, the "asunals", the ceremonial rocks placed by the Lenape as wayfinders and to carry the prayers of successive generations — these are the same vistas and scenes that inspired an entire movement in art. The artists of our Juried Art Show and Entr'Exhibits are the inheritors of the masterful Hudson River School. We are so pleased and honored to host their inspired works. Every show is a celebration of their creativity.

ABOUT THE NJ HIGHLANDS COALITION

Through events such as the Highlands Art Exhibit, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition promotes awareness about the beauty, and cultural and natural resources of the NJ Highlands region. As a nonprofit organization in Boonton, New Jersey, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition works to protect, restore, and enhance the water and other natural and cultural resources of New Jersey's Highlands. The New Jersey Highlands region encompasses eighty-eight municipalities in Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren counties. The regions' natural resources are protected under the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, enacted to protect the drinking water for 6.2 million people in NJ as well as the numerous natural resource values on which our quality of life depends. For more information on the NJ Highlands Coalition or to become a member, please visit the organization's website: <http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org>

ABOUT MAXFIELD ENGINE HOUSE

The Center for the Study of Cities and Small Towns (CSST) Foundation renovated the firehouse according to a preservation study done by researchers from Penn Praxis at the Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. Constructed in 1893 by civic-minded Boonton citizens led by then City Council president, Esli B. Dawson, great, great grandfather of CSST board members Ryan Dawson of Mendham and Rebecca Birch of New York City, the firehouse occupies a prominent location in the center of Boonton, NJ's Main Street Historic District. It has served a variety of functions since the town's fire engines became too large for its original use.

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CLICK HERE for Awards Photos and Images

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