

## **Glen Arbor Art Center Plein Air Weekend**

### **Policy on Conflict of Interest**

Cash prize awards are given to selected participating artists at the annual GAAC Plein Air Weekend (PAW) art exhibits based on the guest judge's recommendation. The judging process offers the opportunity for artists to have their work reviewed by a recognized art professional. Offering cash prizes has helped establish the PAW as a credible and respected art competition by both artists and the community.

Guest judges are selected by the PAW organizing committee. The committee seeks judges from diverse artistic backgrounds to balance the judging process from year to year: recognized artists, gallery owners, museum and art professionals, etc. The GAAC determines the cash prize amounts that the judge awards.

A judge's evaluations are generally based on the artwork's professional and aesthetic quality, concept, and application of materials. Key is a demonstration of understanding and mastery of plein air painting. If the art competition (Quick Draw, etc.) has a theme, the judge should consider the interpretation and originality of the depicted theme.

It is understood that judging is a subjective activity. However, the evaluation process should be bias-free. Each work is judged on its own merit. In the relatively small world of artists and gallery owners, the PAW committee recognizes that often an artist's work is known to a judge. It is expected that this awareness will not result in a biased judgment.

However, if the artist has a professional or personal relationship with the judge, this can present a conflict of interest. Whether this relationship actually results in a bias for award eligibility, particular care must be taken to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest in order to maintain the integrity of the Plein Air Weekend. Artists who are represented by a gallery owner who is the judge or who receive compensation/financial support in any business associated with the judge should recuse themselves for prize consideration. Artists may still exhibit and sell his or her work(s) at the sales events.

The PAW Committee reserves the right to disqualify any artist for consideration of an award if the artist does not recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest as described above.

Any questions should be directed to the Judging Chair or PAW Chairs prior to the return of artwork.

#### Reference:

College Art Association, Standards & Guidelines, Statement on Conflict of interest and Confidentiality.

Adopted: 7/21/2021