

Against the Sky Juried Landscape Exhibition
Juror Statement
Summit Artspace on East Market
Akron, OHio

In his book *The Shock of the New* art critic Robert Hughes argues that while the avant-garde is dead, art lives on. Why? This is not so much because of art institutions as it is because of artists. The visual arts remain vital in our culture, Hughes explains, because people continue to use art “to mediate between a sense of history and an experience of the world.”

The work in this show is a revealing cross-section of the incredible range of talents in our wider community. In this work we discover many art historical influences resonating in this present generation of artists. It is fascinating to see how each artist responded to the theme of “Against the Sky” within the broader context of landscape/cityscape, different mediums and styles interpreting each individual experience of the artist’s world.

I want to thank the staff of Summit Artspace, and to thank Taylor Clapp in particular for her help in making the salon-style installation a success. We hope that many interesting connections between works in the show will become apparent because of the way artworks are grouped.

But most of all, our gratitude goes to the artists who submitted work for this show, and all they are doing to make our art scene alive with excitement. I am truly inspired by seeing your work!

Del Rey Loven

First Place:

Joanna Mack

Title: Sunset On Main

Medium: Cotton hand dyed and commercial fabric, cotton thread, cotton batting, stretched canvas

Price: \$250

Artist Statement: Sunset On Main commemorates a spectacular sunset seen at the corner of Market and Main Streets in downtown Akron that set building windows ablaze with molten colors. Buildings have been rearranged and simplified a bit to let the sunset take center stage. The coming night is foretold in the lit street level windows.

Second Place:

Janet Mikolajczyk

Title: Borderwall

Medium: Bricks, original inkjet print, printed on transfer paper, transferred to brick This is an artist proof.

This is the same piece as the first submission. But it is the reverse side, where the prints are different.

Price: \$495.00

Artist Statement: The images and materials that I use are found, either in culture or recycled objects. These materials may be used in sculpture, assemblage or digital collage. Text also plays a part in my form, which brings familiar objects into a new reality.

Third Place:

Joshua Fitzgerald

Title: Against the Nautical Sky

Medium: Photo Taken with a Nikon D750, Tamron 24-70mm lens with a 9 stop ND filter. 30 second exposure. This is a 40"x25" HD Metal print with a 1" frame on the back for mounting/hanging.

Price: \$625

Artist Statement: I was walking with some photographers on the E. 9th Street Pier in Cleveland and I remembered I had my ND filter for my lens. What a great waterscape opportunity for a long exposure! I sure got lucky with beautiful colors and some haze in the sky to block the sun just enough.

Honorable Mention:

Megan Dardis

Title: Building Up the Breakdown

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

Price: \$350

Artist Statement: The focus of this body of work was to explore how landscapes are built, viewed, and experienced. In these paintings I explore the relationship between nature and how humankind analyze, view, build up and destroy the landscape around us. The mountain-scapes in this series breaks down into geometric, fragmented pieces and parts, or melts away and spreads out like inkblot transforming into something new and unrecognizable.

Honorable Mention:

Erica Bishop Cingle

Title: 4.3.18

Medium: mixed media

Price: \$600

Artist Statement: I have always been interested in how objects are produced. This is where I found inspiration to create a process-based series of photographic work that includes the use of my second emphasis area, metalsmithing, to create imagery that is reminiscent of abstract painting and topographical satellite imagery. To create this work, I use a torch to heat copper sheets. This causes a series of colors to form across the surface, fostering different shapes and patterns. The intricate designs vary depending on the temperature of the flame and how long it is held over the plate. The sheets are then scanned and digitally enlarged to bring out minute details and vibrant colors, then printed on aluminum to return them to a metallic surface. The resulting images are unique, singular pieces that cannot be duplicated.

Honorable Mention:**Silvia Wolford****Title:** August Akron**Medium:** Photograph created with a full-frame DSLR camera**Price:** \$295.00

Artist Statement: I believe beauty has a voice and an assignment. I use my camera along with my unique point of view to spotlight beauty; the beauty of people, places, and things. Beauty can carry love, joy, hope, freedom and other life-changing revelation to the viewer, and even bring about local, national and global transformation. It is my hope that through my photographs, the viewer will come to discover the splendor and significance of themselves, others and the world around them.

Honorable Mention:**River Berry****Title:** Sunset, Summer Lover**Medium:** Photography and Digital Media**Price:** \$250.00

Artist Statement: This piece represents an ending. Whether it is the sun setting on a part of one's life or specific moment we are never sure of what is next. As the sun sets on the past the sun rises on a new day full of new opportunities. These landscapes have been reinvented and re-imagined into contrasting spaces in layers which represent the past and future -- some fading from view and some images coming forward. As a reflection on years past I have chosen to use Adobe Photoshop as a means to convey this idea because technology is, to me, what represents my present career.

Honorable Mention:**J.L. Fashempour****Title:** "The Tower"**Medium:** Photo encaustic, with some oil pigment and pigmented wax, on archival board.**Price:** \$75.00

Artist Statement: The tower is an iconic landmark. The architecture itself is concrete and steel but seems to be almost organic, growing, reaching for the clouds which are soft and fluid. I like the contrast and the medium is almost out of my control, the lines carved into the wax are my attempt to compulsively take back control.