

It has been a joy and an honor to jury the Hannan Center's EMERGE! Art Festival, and to be instrumental in encouraging and facilitating creative growth at every stage of life! With so many artist entries and techniques, narrowing selections down to a top few was a daunting – near impossible – undertaking. It is important to note, however, that any juried exhibition is subject to the jury's unpredictable criteria on any given day; as jurors may be partial to subject matters, media, or even artists that appeal to their personal and/or academic sensibilities. I sought to review these entries with the utmost impartiality. In this case, I did not look initially at artists' names or artwork information, but simply allowed myself to be drawn in by works that sparked imagination. There were countless many entries that created beautiful new worlds for contemplation and escape, so these criteria did not make the task any easier.

I then allowed the artist's descriptions to offer deeper insights into those images and took into consideration the aptitude in which a composition was delivered. Finally, viewing the exhibition in person added another layer of understanding to each work of art. The final three works were selected for vastly different reasons, including ingenuity, technique, emotion, and style.

All of the *EMERGE!* artists and entries are exceptional and, although there were only three top spaces to be allotted, there are 100+ honorable mentions here. Thank you for this opportunity to view and be inspired by your artistry. Keep the creativity flowing....

omo misha
a creative institution



1ST PLACE

Erica Chappuis
And A Star to Steer Her By
36 x 48 in.
Acrylic, mixed media

Wildly captivating and highly imaginative, this composition thrusts the viewer into an adventure with its subject. Invoking every sense, you can almost hear the wind, smell the salt of the sea, and feel the captain's bare determination. The artist's meticulous integration of fabric and varied materials were a welcome surprise that the eye can only capture and appreciate in person. Chappuis succeeds in setting a stage here that is enthralling, engaging, emotive, and tackled with equal amounts of fun and precision.



2ND PLACE

David Prescott
DeSoto
11 x 17 in.
Pen & ink

David Prescott's dexterity with his media simply cannot be ignored. He offers just enough of a glimpse of the classic de Soto for the viewer to feel its sharp fin, curves, and shiny chrome. This perspective on an enigmatic subject – an iconic relic, especially to many Detroiters – is only surpassed by the extraordinary realism of Prescott's pen.



3RD PLACE

Richard Halprin
Winter's Day
14 x 20 in.
Acrylic, ink, pencil on plywood

Halprin, in these figures, has carved out a niche that requires no frills. They communicate mental states and convey a language that, undoubtedly, transcends this painting and that the artist can claim as his own distinctive style. "Winter's Day" is not remarkable because of any learned skill, but because of its honesty in splaying a story that reflects a chill between two people as well as a chill in the air. I imagine Halprin's figures living on to tell many tales about the ordinary, untold moments in our minds and in our lives.