



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MATTIE KELLY ARTS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2015 FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS ARTIST AWARD WINNERS

*28 artists hailing from 19 different cities awarded \$10,000 in cash prizes
for artwork representing 11 different art mediums*

The 20th annual Festival of the Arts drew more than 5,000 art lovers

DESTIN, FLA. — (Oct. 26, 2015) Local and regional artists who gathered on the Northwest Florida Gulf Coast from 19 different cities throughout United States to exhibit in the 20th annual Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation Festival of the Arts in Destin were awarded \$10,000 in cash art prize awards honors. The two-day signature art celebration held Oct. 24 and 25 in the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village in Destin, Fla., featured exhibits of more than 100 artists from 12 states showcasing a diverse palette of artistic styles in 18 different art mediums.

Guest judges were Alexis Leader, director of cultural affairs for the Pensacola Museum of Art and Pamela Allen, chair of the Department of Art & Design at Troy University. They awarded 28 ribbons that each included a cash prize. In addition to Best in Show, three Awards of Excellence, five Awards of Merit and 10 Judge's Recognition Awards were given to artists whose work reflected exceptional talent and craftsmanship.

Craig and Tracy Wilson won both a Judges Award and the People's Choice Award for their clay artwork. For the third year, the Best in Show winner of the Collaborative Art Tent was awarded to a high school student (Sarah Adams from Niceville High School.) For five of the winners it was the first year they exhibited at the Festival. The Collaborative Art awards are made by the McIlroy Family to honor the late Patricia McIlroy, Destin's first First Lady and an MKAF advocate and patron.

"We were thrilled to see 25 new artists join us for this year's annual Festival of the Arts," said Deb Nissley, artist market chair and Festival co-producer. "We are vigilant about ensuring the festival includes quality artists and a variety of artistic styles and mediums, and I think this 20th anniversary year's diverse range of winners reflects that."

The full roster of artists honored follows:

Best in Show Winner (\$1,600)

Lorri Honeycutt, Photography, Austin, Texas

Award of Excellence Winners (\$800)

Juan Francisco Adaro, Mixed Media, Freeport, Fla.

Mitchell Grafton, Ceramics, Panama City, Fla.

Carole Jayne, Metal, Blountstown, Fla.

Award of Merit Winners (\$400)

George Bragg, Metal, Panama City Beach, Fla.

Carroll Swayze, Acrylic, Englewood, Fla.

Jeannie Maddox, Oil, Dothan, Ala.

Martin Figlinski, Oil, Lynn Haven, Fla.

Judges Recognition Award Winners (\$200)

Terri Cadman & Martha Cummins, Wood, New Market, Tenn.

John Maurer, Oil/Acrylic, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Barbara Umbel, Jewelry, Indian Harbour Beach, Fla.

Daryl Harwood, Mixed Media, Panama City Beach, Fla.

Don Nedobeck, Painting, Deland, Fla.

Jenny Wang, Jewelry, Tallahassee, Fla.

Fred Fisher, Mixed Media, Quincy, Fla.

Paul Arthur, Wood, Freeport, Fla.

Lesha Porche, Watercolor, Niceville, Fla.

Becky Hart, Mixed Media, Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

Craig & Tracy Wilson, Clay, Blue Springs, Miss.

People's Choice Award (\$800)

Craig & Tracy Wilson, Clay, Blue Springs, Miss.

Poster Art Contest Winner (\$500)

Andrea “Andi” Scurto, Destin, Fla.

Collaborative Exhibit Winners

Best in Show (\$250), Sarah Adams, Niceville High School

Adult 1st Place (\$100), Ian Fagan

Adult 2nd Place (\$75), Maria Coello

Adult 3rd Place (\$50), John Murphy

Student 1st Place (\$100), Taylor Conley, Niceville High School

Student 2nd Place (\$75), Emily Grace Bishop, Rocky Bayou Christian School

Student 3rd Place (\$50), Madison Rusch, Niceville High School

An estimated 5,000 art lovers attended the sunshine-filled two-day Festival. Thanks to the generous support of 39 local business and media sponsors and a team of more than 100 volunteers, art lovers of all ages were able to watch artists create works of art before their eyes, browse art from dozens of emerging new and student artists, and get hands-on in the interactive children’s art station. Beyond the visual arts, the Festival featured six music acts performing two days of continual live music and a sampling of the local culinary arts scene. Entertaining street performers, lively art drawings and the sale of colorful keepsake souvenirs — all created a family-friendly festival feel.

For more information on how you can become a member of MKAF, provide a donation or explore opportunities to get involved on a committee or the Board of Directors, call (850) 650-2226 find MKAF on Facebook or visit www.mattiekellyartsfoundation.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY: For images of some of the 2015 Festival of the Arts artist award winners, [click here](#). More Festival images are available upon request.

About Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation

Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF), a 501-c-3 not-for-profit charitable arts organization, was founded in 1995 on the cultural, educational and spiritual beliefs of the late Destin Matriarch, Mattie Kelly. The champion of cultural arts and education in Northwest Florida, MKAF's vision is to impact lives through art and culture.

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