



Community Outreach

Congratulations to Jeffery Kiu, Kavya Singh, and Erin Rishikubo, the Alameda County Fair 2023 Award Winners!



Venice Alley by Erin Rishikubo (11th–12th Category)

Every year the California Watercolor Association sponsors three awards for the Alameda County Fair. The CWA Awards this year go to Jeffery Liu for his painting *Venice Alley* (6th–8th Category), Kavya Singh for her painting *Facade* (9th–10th Category), and Erin Rishikubo for her painting *Best Friend's Spirit* (11th–12th Category).

The Alameda County Fair runs from June 16 through July 9 and is located at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. It features horse racing, concerts, carnival rides, racing pigs, a farm animal auction, and many air-conditioned exhibits.

The CWA Award winners' paintings will be exhibited in one of the air-conditioned exhibition halls. These young artists do wonderful works often giving us insights into their lives plus showing artistic skill. It's with pleasure that the CWA Community Outreach Committee will be sending each of them a fifty-dollar check and a blue ribbon in acknowledgment of their creativity.



Facade by Kavya Singh (9th–10th Category)



Venice Alley by Jeffery Liu (6th–8th Category)

2023 Runner-Ups



Phoebe Owen (11th–12th Category)



Madelyn Woo (6th–8th Category)





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On the Pier at Dusk: Sharing Stories and Expressions



Dusk casts a captivating ambiance, as the vibrant colors of the day mellow into subdued tones, transforming backlit scenes into enchanting silhouettes. Such was our project with the Oakland Veterans Center. Led by Michael Friedland, our skilled instructor, we delved into the art of creating gradated washes and sketched the horizon line and pier, carefully considering the interplay of five distinct values. Our canvas included the silhouettes of people gracing the pier and birds soaring overhead, presenting us with a gratifying challenge.

We employed a combination of cerulean blue and an ultramarine, blending them with warm red to produce both a cool and warm dark. These nuanced shades would eventually bring to life the figures on the pier, their reflections shimmering on the water's surface. Michael emphasized that our composition adhered to the timeless principle of figure/ground dynamics. The sky and clouds were a subtle range of blues and grays, breaking into a glow on the horizon, then a strip of land just slightly darker. To ensure optimal results, Michael guided us through the process, drying the paper between stages.

For many in the group, painting figures was a relatively new experience. While some of us followed the prescribed

format, others infused their artwork with personal narratives and unique perspectives. As we shared our paintings and spoke about our artistic journeys, poignant personal stories emerged. For the veterans among us, this painting class meant more than just a creative pursuit; it served as a therapeutic outlet for processing our emotions. Our collective efforts culminated in a series of accomplished paintings and when we each spoke about our paintings a few personal stories came out.

By coming together through the medium of art, we not only honed our creative skills but also formed meaningful bonds that transcended the strokes of a brush. The Oakland Veterans Center's community outreach program continues to provide a space where expression and camaraderie thrive, offering a sanctuary where stories are shared, and hearts are brought closer together.

Sheila Cain

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