



Best in Show winner, Katherine Tholl, with award sponsors Karen & Chet Opalka.

THE ARTS CENTER
OF THE CAPITAL REGION
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Fence Show 2017 Opens, Awards Given to Eight Artists from the Greater Capital Region.

TROY (5/25/2017)-- The Arts Center of the Capital Region recently opened its 52nd annual *Fence Show*, the single largest exhibition of local artists in the region. Any artist, regardless of age and skill level, is welcome to submit up to two works for the exhibition. Membership to the Arts Center is the only requirement, and there is a separate K-12 student category for young artists.

The *Fence Salon* opened on May 18, and will remain on view through July 2. The reception will be held on Friday, May 26, from 5-9pm as part of Troy Night Out.

This year's *Fence Show* was juried by Michael Oatman, artist from Troy, NY, who chose 78 works by 67 artists to be displayed in this year's *Fence Select* exhibition. Michael Oatman has been making and teaching art for over 30 years. After receiving his BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, he moved to Troy in 1989 to study at UAlbany for his MFA in painting. He currently teaches in the School of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Oatman has exhibited his work internationally and at significant American venues including MASS MoCA, the Tang Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the DeCordova, among others.

The *Fence Select* exhibition will be open from July 22 through August 26, with the reception held on Friday, July 28, from 5-9pm at Troy Night Out.

FENCE AWARDS

The Arts Center awarded eight prizes chosen by the juror, gala committee, and Arts Center staff. "My vision has been to find a way to support artists at every level of their career," said Elizabeth Reiss, CEO at the Arts Center. "The *Fence Show* is a revered tradition that we're happy to expand and invest in to ensure our members' continue to find participation a meaningful experience."

Each artist was awarded a \$300 prize, except the Best in Show winner who received \$600 and a solo exhibition in the summer of 2018. The Fence Awards were made possible through the generous support of Karen & Chet Opalka and the Marcelle Foundation.

AWARD WINNERS

The Best in Show Award went to Katherine Tholl of Voorheesville, NY; and the two Juror Awards went to Sonja LaPointe of Troy, NY and Dana Piazza of Hudson, NY.

The Creative Spirit Awards, selected by the Gala committee, went to R. Michael Armstrong of Gansevoort, NY; Alex Waters of Albany, NY; and Thom Williams of Cropseyville, NY.

The Arts Center Awards, selected by Director of Exhibits, Sara Boylen, and CEO, Elizabeth Reiss, went to Aaron Barker of Troy, NY and Andrew Dines of Albany, NY.

ABOUT THE FENCE SHOW

Now in its 52nd year, the *Fence Show* got its name when members' artwork was exhibited on the iron fence surrounding Washington Park in Troy, the original location of the Arts Center. This year we accepted 478 pieces of artwork from 289 artists of all levels of skills and ability, displayed floor-to-ceiling in our first floor galleries.

Membership to the Arts Center is required for entry in the *Fence Show*. Anyone can become a member or renew their membership at any time. To become a member, visit our website www.artscenteronline.org or call us at 518-273-0552. Member pricing is \$55 for individuals; \$35 for students, and seniors; and \$75 per household.

ABOUT: The Arts Center of the Capital Region is a private, not-for-profit corporation that began life as the Rensselaer County Council for the Arts in 1962. In its early years, it was located in a brownstone mansion on Troy's Washington Park. Art classes were offered for the first time there in 1965, with the mansion, converted ballroom and formal dining rooms serving as an art gallery.

Three decades later, The Arts Center bought 6 adjoining buildings on Monument Square in downtown Troy and renovated nearly 36,000 square feet into fully-accessible studio, exhibition, and performing arts space. It also changed its name to The Arts Center of the Capital Region, recognizing that its classes, exhibits, and programs serve 48,000 people a year drawn from an 11-county region surrounding Troy. Today, The Arts Center is proud to serve as a regional arts center, known for its wide range of high-quality classes for adults and children, arts camps for children and teens, highly acclaimed exhibitions, funding, and technical support for arts organizations and artists.

Gallery Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 9AM-7:30PM

Friday: 9AM-4PM

Saturday: 9AM-5PM

Sunday: Noon-4PM

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