

Highlights from Southern Arts Society's 'A Fresh Look' competition and exhibit

Photos by TAMMY FARLEY

Eighty-eight artists competed in "A Fresh Look," the Southern Arts Society's annual art competition and exhibit which opened Saturday, Aug. 2 with a reception at the Kings Mountain Art Center at the Depot.

Lori McAdams, Ada Offerdahl and Ronald Shepard were the big winners.

Merit awards were also won by Brenda Beard Bostian, Anne Harkness and Linda Gotsch McGregor.

The exhibit continues through Aug. 29 during gallery hours Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10

a.m.-4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Jerry Elder, who owns Elder Gallery in Charlotte, judged the show which drew artists from a wide region. Cash prizes went to the winners.

Artists took a look at the world around them and also drew from their wildest imagination to create "A Fresh Look."

Lori McAdams of Belmont, the first place winner, won the blue ribbon and cash for her mixed media composition, "David." Commented Mr. Elder, "The first place winner was a rather easy decision for me since it

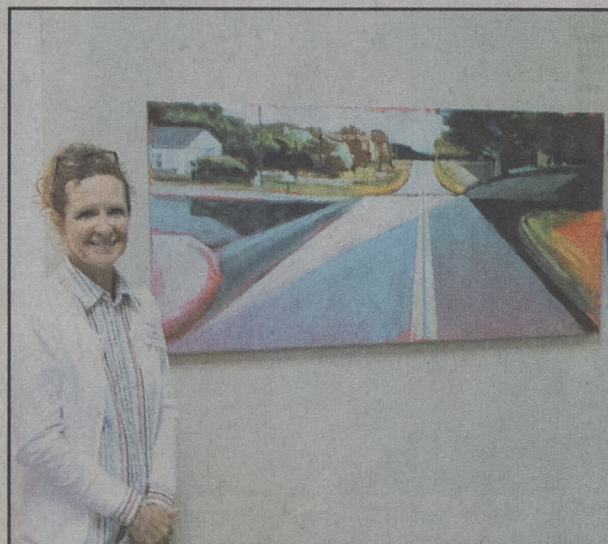
is an exquisite little painting. I liked the composition and the straight-forward nature of the piece. The artist controlled the medium in a masterful way. Bravo."

Second place went to Ada Offerdahl of Charlotte for her oil painting, "From My Back Door to Yours." Mr. Elder said, "This is a painting that grew stronger the more I viewed it. I found myself coming back to it and noticing something different each time. It was fresh and loosely painted and it kept drawing me inside. I enjoyed looking at it from across the room as well."

Third place went to

Ronald Shepard of Gastonia for his oil painting "Spring Runoff." Mr. Elder said of Shepard's work, "Third place was given to "Spring Runoff" because I understand the difficulty in capturing the movement and excitement that springs forth from running water. The artist achieved this by incorporating beautiful composition with precise paint application."

Merit awards went to Brenda Beard Bostian for her oil painting, "Mystic IV," Linda Gotsch McGregor for her watercolor "4 Pears" and to Anne Harkness for her oil painting "Route 6."



Anne Harkness won a merit award for her oil painting "Route 6."



Jewel Reavis announces the awards at Aug. 2 reception of the Southern Arts Society that opened the new exhibit by 88 artists on the theme "A Fresh Look."



Lori McAdams of Belmont won first place and the blue ribbon for her mixed media of "David."



Ada Offerdahl, Charlotte, the second place winner with her oil painting "From My Back Door to Yours" took the red ribbon.



Ronald Shepard of Gastonia won third place for his oil painting "Spring Runoff."



Brenda Beard Bostian won a merit award for her oil painting "Mystic IV."



Linda Gotsch McGregor won a merit award for her watercolor "4 Pears."