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**Redwood Art Association Awards its Artist Members \$1775 in Prizes at its 51st Spring Exhibition**

EUREKA – Best of Show award (\$400) went to Linda Mitchell for her oil painting on canvas titled, “Grand Opening, Eureka Books”.

“This artist understands negative shapes and composition,” said exhibition juror Manette Fairmont. “She has simplified a complex subject of architecture and human figures in a creative way that keeps your eye moving through the work. In addition, there is an interesting tension between the warm bodies of people and the cool architecture of the structure. She has created an atmosphere in the piece that goes beyond skill.”

Best of Show Photography Award (\$400) was given to Rick Gustafson for his photograph/ink pigment print named “Alder Tranquility”. Fairmont stated that the photography entered in the show is the strongest in a group she has ever seen. Regarding Gustafson’s piece she commented that “the photograph has simple, quiet, geometries and the photographer obviously takes his skill further by giving the piece a painterly feeling.”

Manette Fairmont is the owner and curator of Sonoma’s Fairmont Gallery, one of the top Bay Area galleries for museum quality original oil, watercolors, pastels and

photography. She represents nationally respected artists who work in traditional art with a contemporary edge. She herself is an accomplished artist and has judged many nationally important art events.

On the general merits of entries made to the RAA Spring Show, Fairmont remarked, “This show contains an amazing amount of excellent art, demonstrating technical and compositional skill. The art meets the quality standards for a national show.”

“Fairmont’s entry and award selection process was deliberate and logical”, said Roy Grieshaber, RAA President. “She judged all pieces against each other within their own mediums. Pieces that won awards and honorable mentions were those that were composed well and demonstrated consistency of artistic style and skill throughout.”

Other awards went to Karen Berman, Alvan Dunlap, Kay Harden, Frances Kuta, Randy Mayers, Eric Mueller, Bob Murdock, Curtis Otto, Walter Pence, Riley Quarles, José Quezada, Camille Regli, Jack Sewell, Sara Starr, Alicia Tredway, and David Wilson.

Awards are donated by individuals and local businesses.

The exhibition runs through May 3rd. A reception for RAA members and their guests will be held from 5 – 6pm before Arts Alive! Saturday, April 4th and will include presentation of awards at 5:30pm.

The Redwood Art Association is a community dedicated to the creation of art as an important and indispensable part of life and the economy of Humboldt County. Information about the association is available at [www.redwoodart.org](http://www.redwoodart.org). The Morris Graves Museum of Art is located at 636 F Street, Eureka.

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