

Celebrating Women in the Arts

The American Women Artists national Juried Competition and Member's Exhibition presents a diverse range of quality artwork.

Since 1997, the American Women Artists (AWA) has organized annual national juried competition and member exhibitions. A two-tiered membership, AWA is designed to inspire and encourage women to reach their full artistic potential. The highest level of membership, Master Signature Member, includes women who have been working professionally in the visual arts field for a number of years, are represented by national galleries, have participated in museum exhibitions and sales shows and have been featured in art publications.

Opening October 9, the national juried exhibition will be displayed with work from AWA Master and Signature Members, hosted by Southwest Gallery in Dallas, Texas. A reception will be held October 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the gallery.

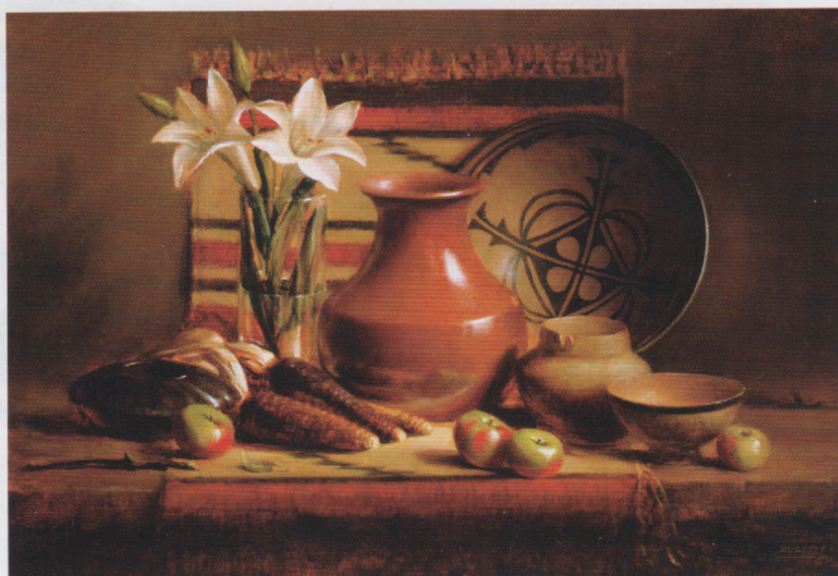
"I am very excited about this year's AWA show. I think this is a strong group of talented artists," says Debbie Leeuw, executive director of AWA. "From what I am seeing of the images so far from the Master Signature and Signature Members we should have a great show. The quality of work is very impressive and the range of subject matter is extensive. The advance response we are getting from collectors and even the show sponsors is extremely encouraging."

For the juried competition, Leeuw says there were a record number of 503 women artists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico applying with over 1,500 images. Judges for the show are well-known author and art commentator Susan Hallsten McGarry, Southwest Gallery owner Bob Malenfant, Master Signature Member and sculptor Darlis Lamb, and Master Signature and award-winning painters Karen Vance and Kim Casebeer.

"I think they [the judges] are going to have a tough time narrowing the field of invitees down to just 65 pieces of artwork," adds Leeuw.



Ann Self, *Evening Shadows*, oil, 16 x 20"



Ellen Buselli, *Good Earth*, oil on linen, 18 x 26"



Kim Casebeer, *Great Day for a Drive*, oil, 24 x 30"

Awards will be given to an overall exhibition winner, two exhibition runner-up artists, and include various other recognitions.

Master Signature Members include Joy Kroeger Beckner, Nancy Boren, Ginger Bowen, Ellen Buselli, Kim Casebeer, Cary Ennis, Joni Falk, Linda Glover Gooch, Bethanne Kinsella Cople, Kirsten Kokkin, Darlis Lamb, Joan M. LaRue, Sherrie McGraw, Elizabeth Robbins, Rosetta, Roseta Santiago, Sherry Blanchard Stuart, Carol Swinney, Karen Vance and Liz Wolf, among others.

"The main goal of the group is

encouraging other women artists that you can have a successful career doing what you are passionate about," says Leeuw. "I believe the American Women Artists organization is going to grow even further in the next couple years and I am honored and privileged to work with this great group of artists who are so committed to their craft." 🌿

AWA National Juried Competition and Members Exhibition

When: Oct. 9-Nov. 9, 2010; Opening reception Oct. 9, 1-5 p.m.

Where: Southwest Gallery, 4500 Sigma Road, Dallas, TX 75244
(800) 272-9910

Information: (800) 960-4781,
www.americanwomenartists.org