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## **Winners Announced for *A Mackinac Day* Art Exhibition at Manoogian Art Museum**

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Mackinac State Historic Parks is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 juried art exhibition, *A Mackinac Day*, at The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum.

Nathan Kemler, Director of Galleries and Collections at Grand Valley State University, served as juror and selected *Sunshine on Sugarloaf*, by Bill Murcko as best in show. As the overall winner, Murcko will receive The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum Gold Medal and a \$2,500 cash prize. Murcko's name will also be added to the list of annual Gold Medal winners, which is displayed in the museum.

*Only on the Straits*, by Kevin Barton, was named second place, and *Summer Street*, by Claire Larkins, finished third. Three honorable mentions were also selected: *Bicycle Parade*, by Beth Bynum, *Happiness Comes in Waves*, by Cynthia Armstrong Rosa, and *Cedar Trail*, by Natalia Wohletz.

The second and third place winners receive cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$750, respectively, and the three honorable mention winners will receive cash prizes of \$250 each. All prizes are donated by the Mackinac Arts Council and Mackinac Associates.

The pieces will be on display in the museum through Sunday, October 8 in the second floor gallery. Admission to the museum is \$10.00 for adults and \$6.50 for children ages 5-12 and includes the

Biddle House, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, and McGulpin House. Admission to the museum is also included with a Fort Mackinac ticket, and is also complimentary to overnight guests of Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau-member hotels.

“The annual contemporary art contest continues to support the mission of The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum by encouraging new artistic creations inspired by Mackinac Island,” said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks director. “I invite residents and visitors alike to tour the exhibition and enjoy these wonderful Mackinac-inspired works of art.”

Mackinac State Historic Parks is also excited to announce the theme for the 2024 art contest: *Mackinac Rocks!* From looking in wonder at the natural curiosity that is Arch Rock to skipping rocks at Windermere Point, to maybe enjoying some ‘rock’ at a local establishment or the fact that Mackinac Island is itself a large rock, it is safe to say that *Mackinac Rocks!* We encourage artists working in all media to share with us their artistic visions of what *Mackinac Rocks!* means to them.

A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#).

*Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).*

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