

Flood Awareness 2021 All Media Exhibit

The theme for the February 2021 all-media exhibit was Flood Awareness. Flood Awareness Week in Virginia is March 14-20, 2021. The exhibit was juried by Jessie Boyland (Art Works Gallery Director) and Glenda Kotchish (Art Works Owner). The criteria for selection into the exhibit was: (1) capturing the theme of the exhibit (2) technique and mastering of medium used (3) composition (4) conveying a story or statement.

First Place went to Nicole Harp and Sam Hughes with *Little Fishy Went to Market* and *Mind Your Manners*.

These photo composites of ordinary family activities (grocery shopping and eating dinner) are juxtaposed with flooded surroundings. They are both playful and surreal with canned goods on the shelves intermixed with lobsters and star fish and the dog dining at the table with the family).

Second Place went to Jeff Morris with *Flooding on the James Fall 2020 RVA*.

This oil painting is masterfully done. Morris successfully combined flatness in the foreground with texture and depicts a raging river. The bridge and the Richmond downtown skyline are painted in detail and capture a complete picture of the city and the river.

Third Place went to Mark Price with *Thetis*.

This photomontage is stunning. The triangular composition of the building, island and figure whose face is blurred, are surrounded by rising water. This combination suggests imminent disaster.

Best Depiction of Theme went to Les James with *Carried Away (Cedar Rapids, IA Summer 2008) 1 and 2*

The photograph of a building nearly covered in water depicts the depth of rising water. The second photograph showing the city of Richmond, VA in the background and the small building in the foreground shows that it is not just surrounded by water but has been torn away and traveling downstream. The viewer wonders where the building originated, how far it has traveled, who owned the building, where are they now?

All the artwork submitted is thoughtful and well done. Some are amusing (*H2Oh No* by Geroge Tinsdale), others speak to pending economic disaster (*May Corn Flood* by Susan Garnett), some depict animals coping (*Flood Watcher* by Patricia Munford) and others offer hope in the face of a flood (*The End of the Rainbow, Flooding Rains Cease* by Joseph Gottlich). Lew Lott's painting, *Sirens of the Flood*, bring a classical perspective of Greek gods and goddesses causing and interacting with natural disasters.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation sponsors this show to bring education and preparedness for floods to the community. You will enjoy the variety of images captured through photography, paintings and composites of flood conditions and high water. Two videos of the artwork will be on www.artworksrv.com and DCR will present an educational material on the subject.

