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Mark Arts Presents the 2016 Kansas Watercolor Society National Exhibition

WICHITA, Kan. – The 2016 Kansas Watercolor Society National Exhibition opens today at Mark Arts and will remain on display to the public through December 30.

The exhibition is a perennial favorite for the community's art lovers. It dates to 1968 and continues to inspire thousands of dollars in Patron Purchase Awards annually. The artists selected for the 2016 exhibition display a mastery of this translucent, transcendent medium.

Renowned watercolorist Dean Mitchell of Tampa, Florida, served as the juror for the exhibition. Mitchell is an accomplished watercolorist who is well known for his figurative works, landscapes and still lifes. He is one of only three artists to have won two gold medals from the American Watercolor Society. Mitchell is a graduate of the Columbus College of Art & Design in Columbus, Ohio.

Mitchell conferred the following awards:

Mary R. Koch Memorial Award - \$1,000

Fantasy by Denise Athanas of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

Second Place - \$750

Once Upon a Time by Matthew Bird of Sykesville, Maryland

Third Place - \$500

Pedicab – NYC by Laurie Goldstein-Warren of Buckhannon, West Virginia

Honorable Mention - \$100

Net Worth by Lance Hunter of Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Rise in Grey and Green by John James of Plano, Texas

Hearts in Heart by Soon Warren of Fort Worth, Texas

Confusion by Barbara Yoerg of Las Vegas, Nevada

Mark Arts also has a concurrent solo exhibition by artist Jean Cook showing in its Wiedemann Gallery. Cook, of Paola, is the 2016 champion of Versus: A Live Art Battle. Cook's loose artistic style emphasizes the use of color, light and shadow to create dimension and depth. She teaches oil and acrylic classes in Kansas City and has worked as an engraving artist for Hallmark Cards.

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About Mark Arts

The mission of Mark Arts is to be a vibrant arts hub in Wichita and the region by providing opportunities to appreciate and create art in an atmosphere of lifelong learning. It was originally founded in 1920 as the Wichita Art Association, later became The Wichita Center for the Arts and is the area's oldest visual arts organization. The galleries are open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Visit MarkArtsKS.com or call 316.634.2787.

MARY R KOCH ARTS CENTER