



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 13, 2018

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Abstract National Exhibition Opens Today

WICHITA, Kan. – Mark Arts presents the Abstract National Exhibition, on display April 13 through July 7. A free public opening reception will take place 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 13, with a talk by the juror, Jerry McLaughlin of Oakland, California, at 7 p.m.

During the member reception, which takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Mark Arts will honor Chris Brunner and Traci Pickert as volunteers of the year. Additionally, dancers from the Regina Klenjoski Dance Company will be present excerpts from "The Game is Afoot" as a site-specific performance.

Abstraction emerged as a powerful movement in the 20th century and continues to grow in popularity. The Mark Arts School of Creativity hosts a robust abstract painting program. Students also may explore abstraction in ceramics, digital arts, enameling, mixed media, printmaking and sculpture. The biennial exhibition is underwritten by the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation.

The following awards are announced:

FIRST PLACE MARY KOCH MEMORIAL AWARD - \$1,000

Switchgrass by John Ernatt of Wichita, Kansas

SECOND PLACE - \$750

Signals by Kim Matthews of Minneapolis, Minnesota

THIRD PLACE - \$500

Ocular by Keith Perelli of New Orleans, Louisiana

HONORABLE MENTION - \$250

Spoonbill by John Ernatt of Wichita, Kansas

Organizing States of Feeling by Dane Jones of Wichita, Kansas

Crystal Express Square by Selena Nawrocki of Valdosta, Georgia

Untitled (Pathways) by Tim Stone of Hutchinson, Kansas

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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. The galleries are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Admission is free. Visit MarkArtsKS.com or call 316.634.2787.

MARY R KOCH ARTS CENTER