

Meet the Panel of Judges

Abigail Gomez: Born in New York, Abigail has lived in Virginia for 20 years. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Tech and a Master of Fine Arts in painting from the Academy of Art at the University of San Francisco. Ms. Gomez's work is in many private collections and has been featured in exhibitions in Virginia, New York, and California. In addition to operating a fine art business, Pretty Girl Painting, she serves on the board of the Shenandoah Arts Council, teaches art at Winchester's Mountain View Christian Academy, and is a set-painter with the Winchester Little Theatre.

Joan Kowalski: Joan and her husband Marino have been residents of Loudoun County since 1996 where Joan is active in half a dozen community groups including the Loudoun County Art Advisory Committee. Graduating from James Madison University in 1983, today Joan is the owner and president of Bob Ross Company, which is a huge part of the marketing magic that keeps television's favorite painter alive and popular ever to this day.

Brittany Root: Ms. Root is a visual artist trained in oil and acrylic painting techniques, although she enjoys working in a variety of mediums. Ms. Root creates artwork on commission for private and commercial clients. She is the lead research on the Otto H. Bacher Catalog Raisonne Project and serves on the board of directors for the McLean Project for the Arts. She teaches cartooning and watercolor painting and brings art experiences to school-aged children. She earned her Master of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University and a BA in History and Studio Art from Georgetown University.

Margaret Vanderhye: Ms. Vanderhye is the immediate past Executive Director of the Virginia Commission for the Arts, a position she was appointed to by Governor Terry McAuliffe in 2014. Until 2014, she served as Vice Chair and Development Co-Chair of the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA). In her community, she conceived and developed an Arts and Humanities Program for her children's elementary school that uses trained parent volunteers to present concepts of an artist or genre with a supporting hands-on art project, and related music and literature. The now 30-year old program continues to this day.

Ms. Vanderhye has a degree in political science from Northwestern University and a M.A. in economics and international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She and her husband Robert A. Vanderhye live in McLean, Virginia. They have two grown children.



10th District Congressional Art Competition



**CONGRESSWOMAN
JENNIFER WEXTON**

**Event Hosted by George Washington University,
Virginia Science and Technology Campus**

Program Schedule

- Welcome & Opening Remarks
Ryan McDevitt, GWU Director of Federal Government Relations
- GWU Corcoran School of Art & Design
Director Sanit Sethi
- Guest Speaker: Brittany Root
"Art as a Career in Five Lessons"
- Welcome from Congresswoman Wexton
- Presentation of Honorable Mention Award
- Presentation of Best in Show Award
- Recognition Category Award Winners
- Certificate Presentation for Participants
- Closing Remarks by Congresswoman Wexton

2019 Congressional Art Competition

Award Winners

Best in Show: *Joanna Rivera Tan*

Honorable Mention: *Christian Calma*

Photography Non-Figurative

- 1st – Ethan Kimrey
- 2nd – Saskia Hunter

Photography Figurative

- 1st- Ryan Evelyn Garner
- 2nd - Matthew Wisdom

Drawing Non-Figurative

- 1st – Nicole Houchins
- 2nd – Courtney Beauchamp

Drawing Figurative

- 1st- Maryam Bade
- 2nd - Sasha Fischer

Print Making

- 1st – Alyssa Nguyen
- 2nd – Veronica Wong

Digital

- 1st- Emma Halstead
- 2nd – Emma Nocera

Painting Non-Figurative

- 1st – Kaitlyn Song
- 2nd – Hope Kim

Painting Figurative

- 1st- Mira Zineddin
- 2nd – Mary Rose Hillock

Mixed Media Non-Figurative

- 1st – Sarah Throne
- 2nd – Zara Rizvi

Mixed Media Figurative

- 1st- Sydney Wilson
- 2nd – Zara Rizvi

Mixed Media 3-D

- 1st – Yehui Kim
- 2nd – Ashley Heyn