



AMERICAN ART AWARDS Names The World's Best Contemporary Fine Artists

October 26, 2026. Los Angeles.

Artists from 69 countries competed in the 2026 AMERICAN ART AWARDS where 20 of the most revered galleries in the USA were sent online images to score in drawing, painting, sculpture, digital and photography. The 300+ winning works, 1st to 6th Place (and ties) in all 50 categories, will be featured in an upcoming movie and 75 articles.

“American Art Awards levels the playing field so all artists have an equal opportunity,” explains Thom Bierdz, president of American Art Awards, World Art Awards, Art Collectors Choice Awards. “This is why we only send the voting galleries the artwork images, titles, sizes and mediums used. No photos of the artists or bios are allowed. It’s all about initial impact. However, if a gallery is so enamored with a piece, they are free to click on the artist’s web site link and contact them for representation.”

This year artists entered work from these 69 countries: Angola, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Republic, South), Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA and Vietnam.

The six cash prizes go to fine artists in Canada, China, India, Japan, Uganda and USA winning in oil, acrylic, charcoal and digital.

Winners of the 6 cash prizes are:

MOST WINS CASH PRIZE goes to **TATIANA LEIMKUELLER** of **USA** for 30 wins ranging from realistic celebrity portraits to digital abstracts to nonrepresentational sculpture.

MASTERPIECE CASH PRIZE goes to **TERESA BOLEN** of **JAPAN** for her mesmerizing 26 inch surreal oil, “Serenity,” which won in 7 categories.

BEST OF SHOW CASH PRIZE goes to Canadian **SANDRA MACGILLIVRAY** for her 30 inch acrylic titled “Fall Guy” of a sunglassed male’s face shown through a rake.

2ND HIGHEST SCORE IN ENTIRE CONTEST CASH PRIZE goes to **LI CHENG** of **CHINA** for “Flecks Of Gold In The Grove.” The calming 48 inch oil on linen is traditional realism at its finest.

3RD HIGHEST SCORE IN ENTIRE CONTEST CASH PRIZE goes to **VENKATESH DORNAL** of **INDIA** for “Self Portrait From Mirror-Mulling.” The moody 24 inch hyperrealist oil shows the artist holding a cup, standing in front of his easel canvas.

4TH HIGHEST SCORE IN ENTIRE CONTEST CASH PRIZE goes to **KIGEMUZI MARVIN** of **UGANDA** for “Brenda.” The 16 inch realistic charcoal on paper captures the exuberance of a smiling female in glasses and jewelry.

Galleries selected hundreds of winning artworks, 1st to 6th Place, in all 50 categories. Here are the 1st Place winners:

2026 AMERICAN ART AWARDS

Category 1. OIL FIGURE: **LI CHENG**, **CHINA** “Flecks Of Gold In The Grove”

Category 2. ACRYLIC FIGURE: **CHER PRUYS**, **CANADA** “Winnie”

Category 3. WATERCOLOR FIGURE: **BINU ROJERS**, **INDIA** “Morning Brew”

Category 4. CHARCOAL/GRAPHITE FIGURE: **KIGEMUZI MARVIN**, **UGANDA** “Brenda”

Category 5. PASTEL FIGURE: **BERNADETTE FUHRMANN**, **CANADA** “Love After Loss”

Category 6. ABSTRACT: **WILLIAM FRANCIS BRENNAN**, **GERMANY** "HWY 101 Brisbane”

Category 7. ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM: **DIVNA PESIC GROZDANOV**, **MACEDONIA** “The Ascendancy Of Intelligence”

Category 8. ART BRUT/TORMENT: **LAURA SHARP**, **USA** "Reason I Stayed"

Category 9. CUBISM CUBIST CUBIC: JOSEPH CRAGO, USA "Glitch"

Category 10. EROTIC MALE: DAVID VANCE, USA "Woodshed Moment"

Category 11. EROTIC FEMALE: YOURI CHASOV, RUSSIA "Come Here"

Category 12. EXPRESSIONISM HUMAN FIGURE: CHEN JIANPING, CHINA "A Series No.2"

Category 13. EXPRESSIONISM OTHER: THERESA POALUCCI, USA "Desert Troubadour"

Category 14. FANTASY LANDSCAPE: BINU ROJERS, INDIA "A Glimpse Within"

Category 15. FASHION: CHER PRUYS, CANADA "Soaking Up The Sun"

Category 16. FLORAL NOT REALISTIC: THERESA POALUCCI, USA "Perched In Heat"

Category 17. FLORAL REALISM: LINDA STEELE, USA "The Parrish Hibiscus"

Category 18. FUTURISM/FUTURISTIC: DOUGLAS CASTLEMAN, USA "Gemini 5 Launch"

Category 19. HUMOR/WIT: SANDRA MACGILLIVRAY, CANADA "Fall Guy"

Category 20. IMPRESSIONISM ANIMAL: RICKY MONTILLA, USA "Anakin The Corgi"

Category 21. IMPRESSIONISM FIGURE: BINU ROJERS, INDIA "Footsteps In The Cold Light"

Category 22. IMPRESSIONISM LANDSCAPE: MICHELE WALSH GORRES, USA "Leaving By Deer Path"

Category 23. IMPRESSIONISM STILL LIFE: ANDREA BEATTIE, NEW ZEALAND "Sweet Bounty"

Category 24. INNOVATIVE: CHAITALI V. PURUSHOTHAMAN, INDIA "Oneness - We Are All Protected Energy Beings Emitting Positive Energy"

Category 25. MINIMALISM: DOUGLAS CASTLEMAN, USA "Great Egret"

Category 26. NAÏVE FIGURE: WILLIAM FRANCIS BRENNAN, GERMANY "Pistacio"

Category 27. NAÏVE OTHER: AJAY KUMAR HARIT, INDIA "Serene Valley"

Category 28. ORIENTALISM or ASIAN SUBJECT: LI CHENG, CHINA "Traces Of Years"

Category 29. POLITICAL COMMENTARY: YANG QUAN, CHINA "Memories Of Anti-Japanese War Veterans"

Category 30. POP ART: MARIA HOLM PEDERSEN, DENMARK "My Time, My Rules"

Category 31. PORTRAIT OF SOMEONE FAMOUS: DAN PYLE, USA "Stealing The Spotlight"

Category 32. PORTRAIT OF SOMEONE NOT FAMOUS: CHER PRUYS, CANADA "Winnie"

Category 33. REALISM ANIMAL: DAN PYLE, USA "Botswana"

Category 34. REALISM HUMAN: CHER PRUYS, CANADA "Mirror Image"

Category 35. REALISM LANDSCAPE: ERIC JEAN POUILLET, FRANCE "Honfleur Harbor"

Category 36. REALISM OR IMPRESSIONISM LANDSCAPE WITH LIFE: ELENA BELYAVKSYA, USA "Venetian Glow"

Category 37. REALISM STILL LIFE: CHER PRUYS, CANADA "Mirror Finish"

Category 38. RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL: KARI BIRKEDAL, NORWAY “Finding My Way Through the Butterflies”

Category 39. SELF-PORTRAIT: VENKATESH DORNAL, INDIA “Self Portrait From Mirror-Mulling”

Category 40. SURREALISM: ESOUL MIN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA “Echoes Of Silence”

Category 41. PHOTOGRAPHY ANIMAL: ROBERT W SUTTLES, USA “Silhouettes Of Quiet”

Category 42. PHOTOGRAPHY HUMAN: MATTHEW LIM, USA "Last Stop"

Category 43. PHOTOGRAPHY LANDSCAPE: DOUGLAS CASTLEMAN, USA "Los Angeles After The Storm"

Category 44. PHOTOGRAPHY STILL LIFE: MATTHEW LIM, USA “How Nature Affects Daily Lives”

Category 45. MANIPULATED PHOTOGRAPHY HUMAN OR ANIMAL: SIENNA IRWIN, USA "Memory Without Evidence"

Category 46. MANIPULATED PHOTOGRAPHY LANDSCAPE OR STILL LIFE: TERRY SCOPELLITI, USA "Objects 13"

Category 47. DIGITAL REPRESENTATIONAL: MATTHEW LIM, USA "Profligate"

Category 48. DIGITAL NONREPRESENTATIONAL: KATHLEEN V. MILES, USA "Blue Bloom"

Category 49. SCULPTURE REPRESENTATIONAL: ZANE PRETORIUS, SOUTH AFRICA “The Elephant”

Category 50. SCULPTURE NONREPRESENTATIONAL: VALERY OKARSKY, RUSSIA "Enlightenment"

Art collectors can see the hundreds of winning artworks and corresponding contact info to the best contemporary artists in the world here: <https://www.americanartawards.com/2026-winning-artists-american-art-awards/>

American Art Awards 20 Best Galleries for 2026 (in alphabetical order by state) asked to score art:

Best In Arizona: Exposures International Gallery Of Fine Art

Best In California: CK Contemporary

Best In Delaware: Peninsula Gallery

Best In Florida: MAC Art Galleries

Best In Hawaii: Kaikoa Gallery

Best In Idaho: Idaho Art Gallery

Best In Missouri: Fresh Gallery

Best In New Jersey: Riverside Gallery

Best In Ohio: Lee Hayden Gallery

Best In Oklahoma: Exhibit C Gallery

Best In Oregon: Ford Gallery PDX

Best In Pennsylvania: Soft Machine Gallery

Best In South Carolina: Sumter County Gallery of Art

Best In South Dakota: Norse Art Space

Best In Texas: San Antonio's Thornwood Gallery

Best In Utah: The Compass Gallery

Best In Vermont: Front Four Gallery

Best In Washington: Ryan James Fine Arts

Best In West Virginia: Paragon Fine Art

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