

Abstraction 2026

Juror Statement

Judging this exhibition was a genuine pleasure. Abstraction asks artists to move beyond literal representation and explore form, color, texture, and emotion in their purest states. The works submitted showed impressive range – from energetic gestural pieces to carefully composed geometric works, from subtle material explorations to bold color statements.

What set the awarded works apart was a clear artistic vision. These artists understand that abstraction isn't just about removing recognizable elements, it's about revealing something essential through transformation.

Congratulations to all the award recipients, and thank you to every artist who participated.

Hu Lindsay Award – Best in Mixed Media: Hanneke

Goedkoop, "Coral Reef I" Goedkoop's "Coral Reef I" shows the rich possibilities of combining lithography and collage. The printed and constructed elements work together beautifully, creating a sense of the organic complexity and energy of a coral reef while remaining completely abstract. There's a wonderful balance here between planned composition and spontaneous moments, and the piece reveals new details with each viewing.



1st Place: Heide Follin, "Sea Jewels" Follin's "Sea Jewels" achieves something special: it's both luminous and structurally strong. The combination of acrylic and ink creates shifting depths that suggest light moving through water. The surface has a wonderful quality, and the colors enhance each other in sophisticated ways. This is abstraction that feels alive while maintaining strong formal control.

2nd Place: Bill Jones, "Teal and Rust #7" Jones demonstrates that abstract photography is about transforming how we see, not just what we photograph. "Teal and Rust #7" distills reality down to essential color and composition. The cool teal against warm rust creates dynamic tension across the image. What appears simple is actually the result of skilled seeing and the ability to find and frame moments of visual interest from the everyday world.

3rd Place: Lori Lohstoeter, "Drift" Lohstoeter's cold wax and oil technique creates a beautifully textured, atmospheric surface. "Drift" lives up to its title through gentle shifts in tone and forms that seem to move across the paper. The materials are handled with care and restraint, allowing their natural qualities to come forward. This work invites you to slow down and appreciate the subtle conversation between surface and depth.

Tina Villaveces is Founder and Director of the Yellow Studio in Cross River, NY. She has worked at Pace Gallery, Sean Kelly, James Cohan and D'Amelio Terras, as well as Pentagram. She is currently a board member of the Katonah Museum Artists' Association. yellowstudiony.com