

Exhibition at AGM rare opportunity for regional artists

Mississauga News

By [Chris Clay](#) [✉](#)

More than 30 artists from Mississauga, Peel and beyond are enjoying a rare opportunity to show their works in a public gallery as part of an ongoing Visual Arts Mississauga exhibition.

VAM's 38th annual juried show opened last week at the Art Gallery of Mississauga and continues until Feb. 13 at the facility located in City Hall. After receiving more than 170 submissions, the jury – former AGM curator/director Stuart Keeler, abstract artist Lila Lewis Irving and artist/educator Camille Turner – selected the 31 finalists.

Capturing first place was Grazyna Adamska-Jarecka's acrylic ink and paint on Lexan called *Poised and Unbalanced*. The artist's use of dark hues to depict an elderly women twirling in place gives the piece a somber feel and, combined with the use of strange symbols, numbers and words in circles, gives the viewer a sense of bewilderment and disorientation.

Finishing second was Margaret Stawicki's oil and cold wax piece *Journey 8*. It seems to speak to themes of isolation and loneliness with its use of winter tones and depiction of solitary figures casting long shadows as they trudge across a barren landscape.

In third was Susan Ross' *Halley's Comet*. The oil on canvas is a riot of colour that echoes graffiti and street art with its use of bright shades and non-linear swirls.

Receiving an honourable mention was Inge Kjeldgaard Tajik's silverpoint drawing on true gesso panel, *Fragile Like a Puppet in Tinfoil Armour*. Visually striking, the piece lends one to contemplate a certain brave vulnerability the subject possesses.

Nahed Mansour's challenging and thought-provoking video installation *Satellite Telefizyoon* received the AGM Curator's Award.

Mandy Salter, AGM director and curator, said the long-standing support the gallery has lent to VAM by staging the show at the facility each year shows its commitment to the local arts scene. As well, hosting the show at the AGM helps shine the spotlight on artists who might not have exhibited in a public gallery prior.

"It really is a phenomenal opportunity," said Salter. "It allows emerging artists to engage in a situation where most wouldn't get to until they have become a bit more established. I think it really speaks to our interest in bringing art to the community and the community to art."

While there, don't miss checking out Dragica Vidakovic's acrylic on wood piece *Conduit*. It has a Soviet-era propaganda-inspired vibe to it with its use of bright reds, yellows and oranges and depiction of workers.

Also, don't forget to pop into the XIT-RM portion of the gallery that also includes pieces from several artists that are part of the exhibition. While the space is current occupied with the VAM show, throughout the year it features works from Mississauga and 905 artists.

For more information, visit www.artgalleryofmississauga.com.

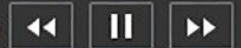


Visual Arts Mississauga Annual Juried Show

Photo by Bryon Johnson

Margaret Stawicki, second place award, with her oil and cold wax piece, titled, 'Journey 8', at the opening reception of the Visual Arts Mississauga Annual Juried Show at the Art Gallery of Mississauga on

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