



1 April 2024 – 12 April 2024

Breaking the Rules



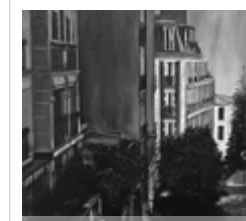
Breaking the Rules

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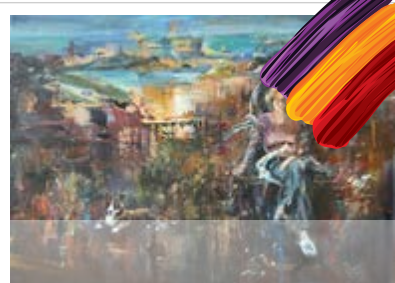
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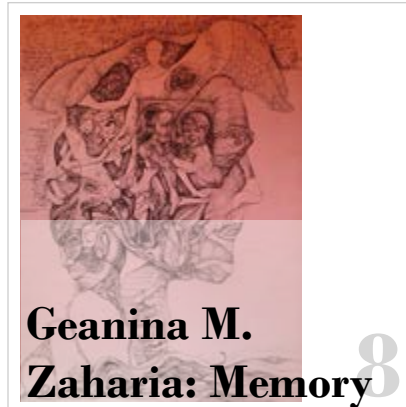
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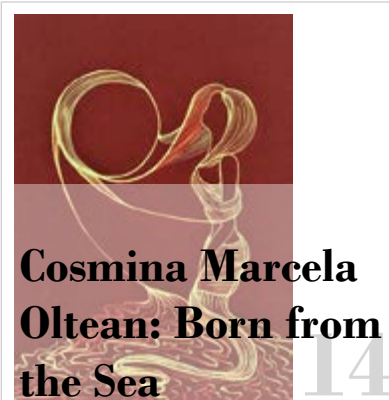
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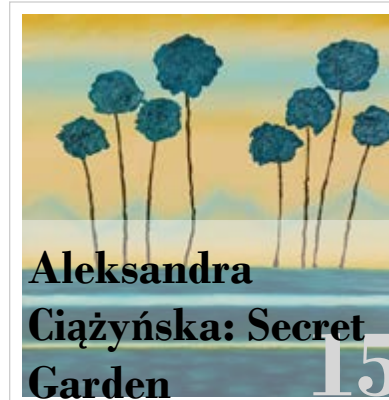
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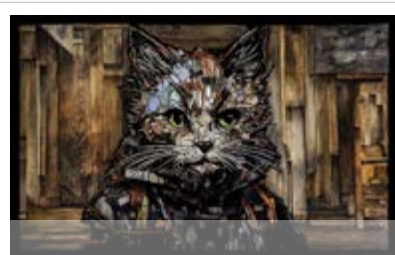
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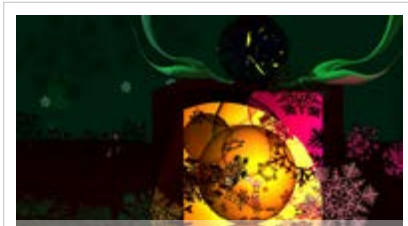
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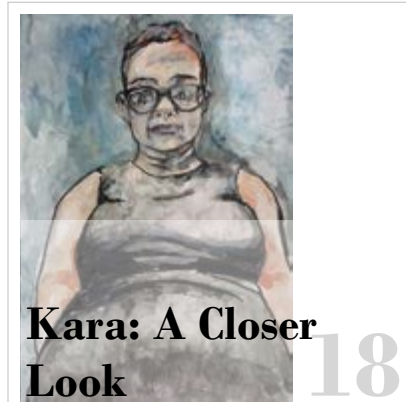
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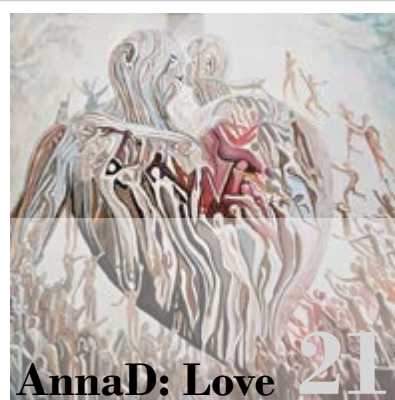
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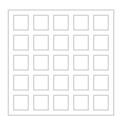
Exhibition Information

"Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist." — Pablo Picasso.

Rightly so, most emerging artists and art students study the guidelines and principles, the hallowed "rules," that help them learn to create art. Artists learn the "rule of thirds," "the golden ratio," 2-D, 3-D, linear, and atmospheric perspective, value structure, color theory, hard vs soft edges, proportions, etc. Within these generalized terms are hundreds of "thou shalls" and "thou shall nots." Without these rules, artists would be left to reinvent the wheel over and over or slosh around in mediocrity forever. They are as important to art as an artist's paints, canvases and brushes. But art is not just about technique and fundamentals and once an artist gains a certain level of proficiency, he/she comes to understand the reasons behind the rules and, on occasions, the justifications to break those rules.

Curator: SUE

Location: Online Exhibition



Cheryl Chidester: Riot of Wildflowers



Art No: PP2519
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 71.12 cm (28 inches)
h: 40.64 cm (16 inches)
Year Created: 2023
Medium: Other
Surface: Paper

This painting, "Riot of Wild Flowers" was created with, and combining, "leftovers". I had a piece of handmade paper leftover from a batch that I created for other work. My natural fabric dyes used in another painting were starting to break down, and I had several colors of leftover encaustic paint but not much in any color. I started this painting with very little planning. My main goals were to use up the materials, create something colorful, and have fun! Once the flowers emerged, I decided to use inks to loosely define some of the shapes. I'm not sure that I would say that I "broke the rules" as I really didn't have any rules for the painting to begin with.



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Krisztina Lőrincz: Black Cat



Art No: PP2516
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 50 cm (20 inches)
h: 80 cm (32 inches)
Year Created: 2023
Medium: Oil
Surface: Canvas

The original photo was taken by my youngest daughter many years ago. I knew then that I wanted to paint it, even though it breaks several 'rules'. For example, the composition: the cat is too much at the bottom of the picture, nothing prominent in the golden ratio. The building at the back is too bright, so it 'jumps forward' a bit ...

Why did I paint it anyway? For me the picture has a special atmosphere, the perspective is special too.



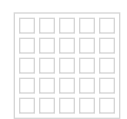
Monacuba: Traveling Together



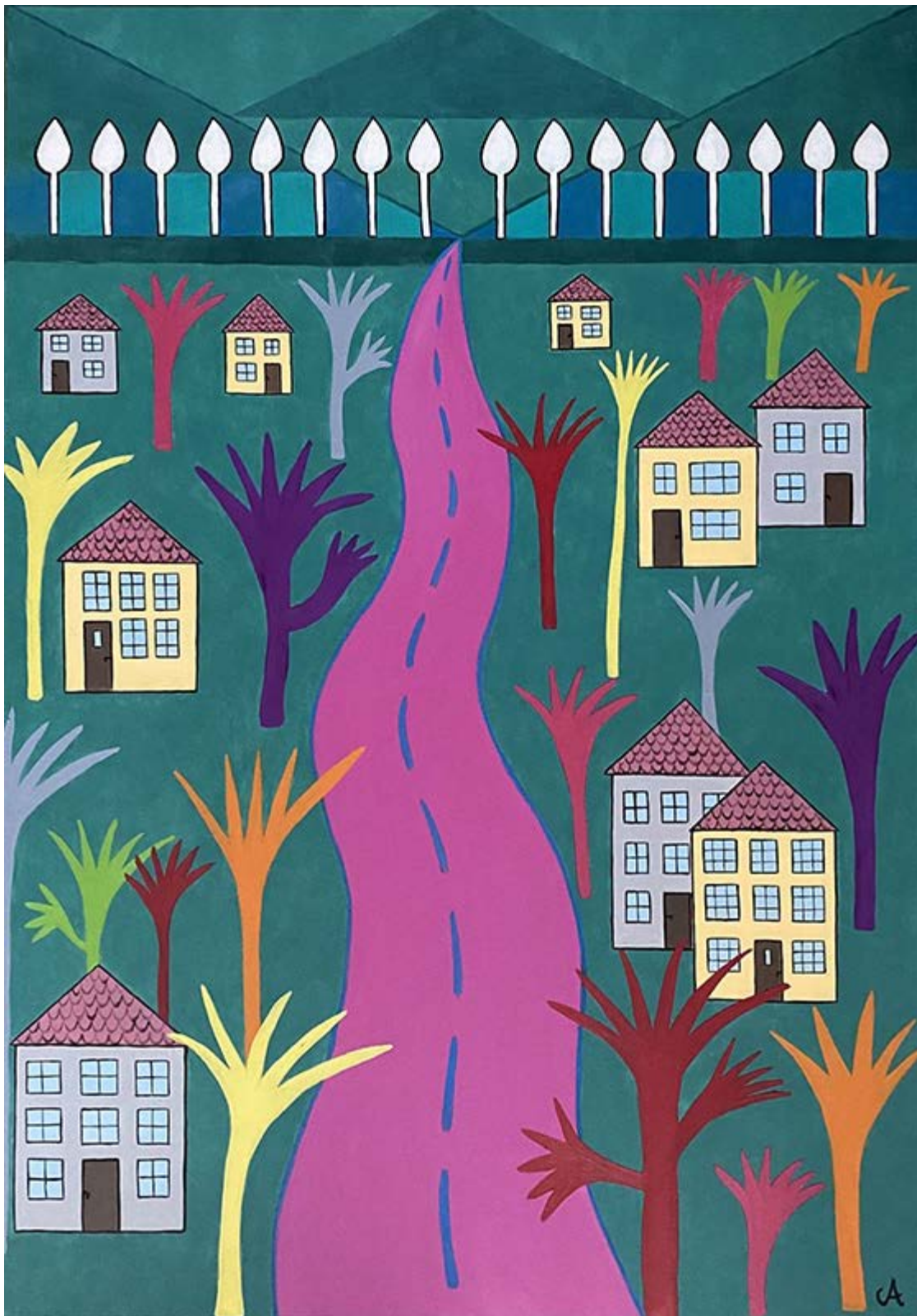
Curator's
Award

Art No: PP2464
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 70 cm (28 inches)
h: 50 cm (20 inches)
Year Created: 2024
Medium: Oil
Surface: Canvas

Having a professional education, it is not easy to break the rules, since they are your component, but sometimes, in order to convey the idea of the picture more accurately, it is necessary. In this case, the man and the dog are not inscribed in the landscape, but exist by themselves, and the landscape is presented in the form of images and memories and is not unified. This gave me the opportunity to fill the picture with my emotions to a greater extent, as if it were a simple realism with a fjord, sky rocks and a man with a dog

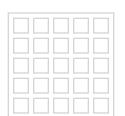


Aleksandra Ciężyńska: Fairy-tale World VIII



Art No: PP2515
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 70 cm (28 inches)
h: 100 cm (40 inches)
Year Created: 2022
Medium: Oil
Surface: Canvas

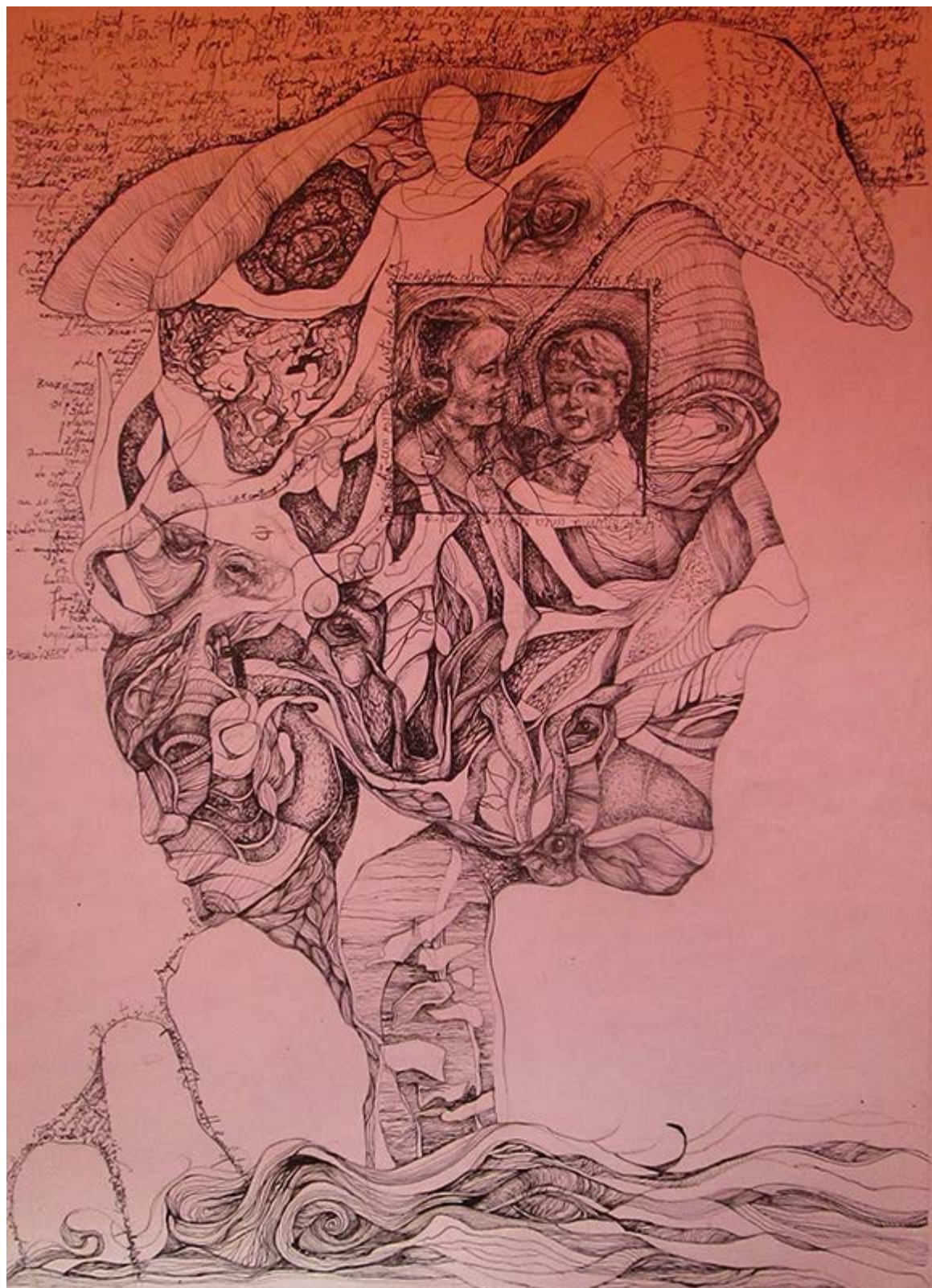
Breaking the Rules



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"Fairy-tale world VIII" — the rule I broke was the lack of perspective and space. The image is "flat". I wanted to show the beauty and simplicity of children's fairy tales. Children can imagine anything, they don't need perspective or space.

Geanina M. Zaharia: Memory



Art No: PP2487

Artwork Dimensions:

w: 27.94 cm (11 inches)

h: 35.56 cm (14 inches)

Year Created: 2017

Medium: Ink

Surface: Paper

"Memory " is a personal artwork made with ink on paper which represents an abstract graphic illustration. I choose to recreate a profile portrait as the main element of composition, made with different shapes and textures. In the center I used an old photo reference- a mother close to her little boy. Also in the bottom of composition there are some gates shapes, a symbol of transition between words. At the top of the artwork I used a writing symbol, letters are an original texture even in art. The letters were in the past the only way of communication, and also a proof in time of memories and emotions.



Zsami: Floating



Gallery
Award

Art No: PP2508

Artwork Dimensions:

w: 80 cm (32 inches)

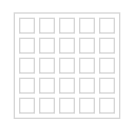
h: 60 cm (24 inches)

Year Created: 2024

Medium: Oil

Surface: Cardboard

The submitted picture was taken because of a finding after a lung cancer screening. A suspicious shadow was visible on the CT findings. When I got it, I felt like my body was floating in deep, dark green water, but it hadn't sunk yet. In the picture, the water surrounds the body incorrectly. A body does not float in water like that. I wanted to express that I am still on the surface of the water.



Aiko Cascio: Lower Manhattan



Art No: PP2513

Artwork Dimensions:

w: 76.2 cm (30 inches)

h: 55.88 cm (22 inches)

Year Created: 2024

Medium: Watercolor

Surface: Watercolor Paper

There was a demand for pictures below that looked exactly like reality, but with the advent of cameras, the situation changed dramatically.

I thought that it was not necessary to draw a picture exactly as it appeared to the eye, and to express what I felt in my thoughts

Paint a picture that reflects my favorite colors and expresses my emotions

This work was created in collaboration between two artists - Széna feat and Shane 54.

Breaking the Rules



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Melissa: Rules for Some



Art No: PP2506

Artwork Dimensions:

w: 152.4 cm (60 inches)

h: 30.48 cm (12 inches)

Year Created: 2019

Medium: Other

Surface: Wood

Breaking the Rules



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I created this piece of 5 to make one full piece, to completely tell the story. They are made from repurposed materials. I have been collecting many things for many years and rulers are one of the many things. I created this piece as a play on words and just to be silly. When I saw this call to artists about Breaking The Rules, I thought how perfect. So, my theme of breaking the rules is taking an item intended for one use and I turning it into something else. This piece hangs in the entry to my house and I love looking at it. It makes me smile and I hope it does the same for you.

Kselma Randvald: Dream Fairy's Gathering



Art No: PP2505
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 39 cm (15.6 inches)
h: 29 cm (11.6 inches)
Year Created: 2023
Medium: Watercolor
Surface: Paper

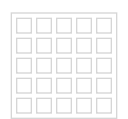
This painting, "Dream Fairy's Gathering," depicts a watercolor sketch of fairies and elves gathered together in a mysterious assembly. Without explicit indication of their specific activity - whether gathering flowers, playing badminton, or preparing the magical ambrosia potion - it remains a puzzle for the viewer. This lack of a clear theme likely embodies the idea of breaking established artistic rules, which aligns with the theme of the exhibition.

In this work, deliberate deviation from some traditional rules accepted in art is evident. Instead of strictly adhering to proportionality and realism, a style is chosen that conveys a sense of melancholy and a slow melody. Considering the composition of the characters in a row, one can notice that this adds additional depth and a melancholic harmony to the piece.

The characters - fairies and elves - possess unique facial features and styles. However, despite this, it may seem to the viewer that the faces of the fairies are not entirely individual, and there is a sense of repetition of the same face among several characters. This is also a violation of commonly accepted norms and gives the painting a special aura of mystery.

In this work, the decision to leave the background white and not add unnecessary details is made consciously, unlike the works of Leonardo da Vinci, where the background often had the color of old paper from time. This decision allows the viewer to focus on the main elements of the work - the characters and their actions - and adds a special charm and mystery to the painting.

The main idea of this work is to show that sometimes breaking standards can lead to new and interesting results. The soft pastel colors create a dreamy atmosphere, and the minimal details in the background allow the viewer to imagine and complement the scene with their own imagination.



AnnaD: Spring



Gallery
Award

Art No: PP2485
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 70 cm (28 inches)
h: 70 cm (28 inches)
Year Created: 2024
Medium: Acrylic
Surface: Canvas

The value of a work of art is based on our ability to recognise the real and to translate it into a new form dictated by our imagination. The switch to small brushes and the mistake of repetitive strokes are not just a matter of amateurism, but can be deliberate, based on the ability to create bizarre effects. Thus, in order to achieve this work, I broke several rules. First and foremost the rules of Constructivism, but also almost everything that was ever considered binding, from the use of brushes, to the choice of brush, to the omission of basic intersections, to the mixing of painting styles.

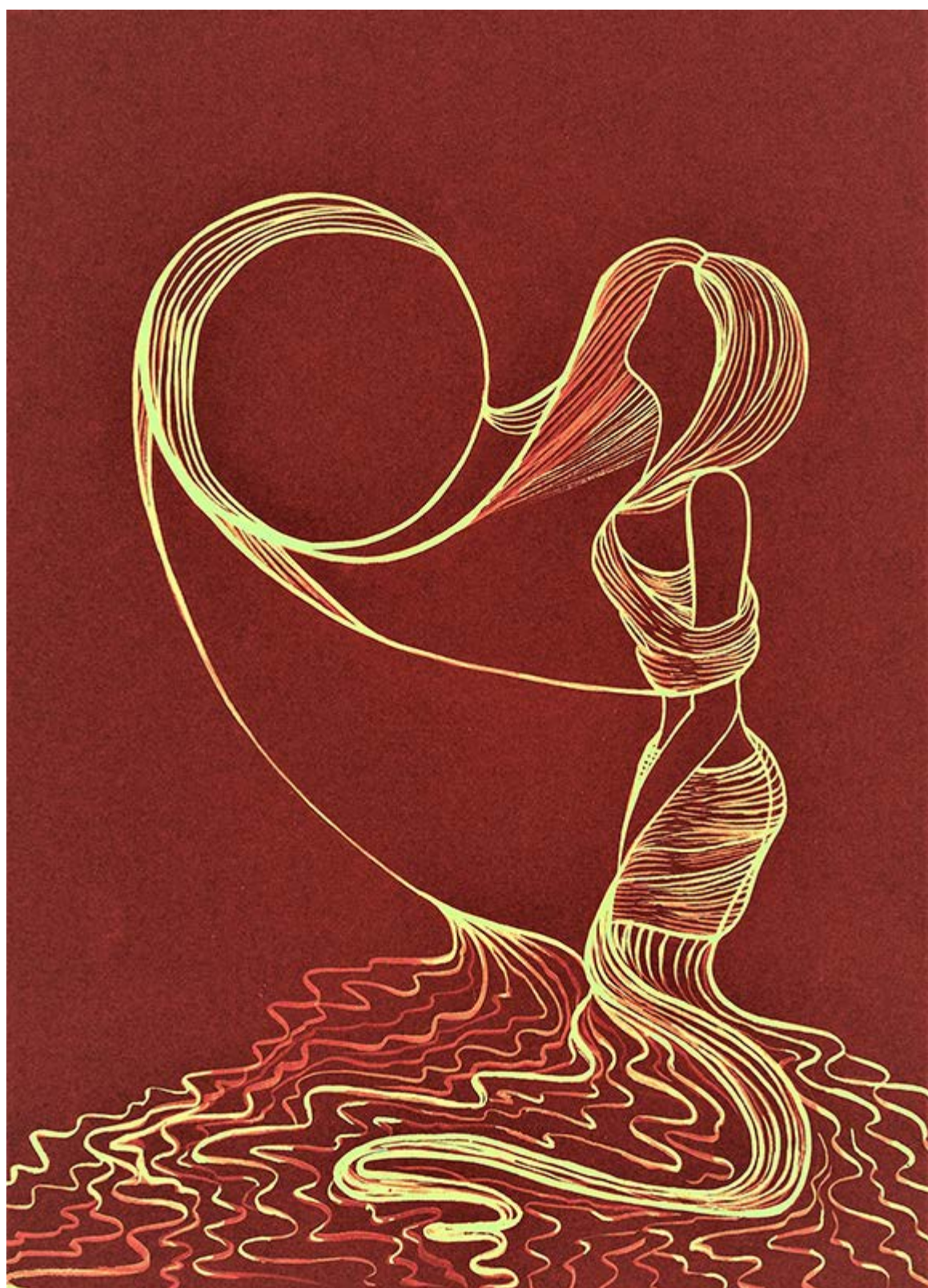
I used symbols to create the image, so the importance of keeping the intersections was lost. Neither scale nor realistic representation of the figures play a role, I concentrated on one thing, the spring revival, the birth of the new.

Breaking the Rules



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Cosmina Marcela Oltean: Born from the Sea



Art No: PP2502
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 29 cm (11.6 inches)
h: 20 cm (8 inches)
Year Created: 2012
Medium: Acrylic
Surface: Cardboard

Breaking the Rules



A personification of water, made in a personal style, with wavy lines, "alla prima", nothing calculated. Often in this series of illustrations I started and didn't know what would come out, I also made mistakes there and tried to them by adding elements over. I had no rules in mind while doing this. It is also digitally processed.

Aleksandra Ciężyńska: Secret Garden



Art No: PP2514
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 90 cm (36 inches)
h: 90 cm (36 inches)
Year Created: 2017
Medium: Other
Surface: Canvas

Breaking the Rules



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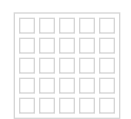
"Secret garden" - the rule I broke was the lack of perspective. Big trees with skinny trunks are on the horizon line. I wanted to show the mystery and unusualness of the place and encourage the viewer to fantasize about what might be beyond the horizon.

Széna: Woodenkitten



Art No: PP2448
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 114 cm (45.6 inches)
h: 70 cm (28 inches)
Year Created: 2024
Medium: Oil
Surface: Wood

Breaking the Rules



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Sublimely playful - Grasping the intangible...

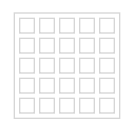
When creating my artwork, I aimed to create a fusion of painting and sculpture, thus pushing the boundaries and rules of both artistic branches. My piece is simultaneously a painting, a wooden sculpture, and something completely new yet evokes a very old and "traditional" feeling. It follows the rules of painting in the wooden details and adheres to the rules of sculpture in the oil painting details, thus paradoxically breaking rules while following rules...

Geanina M. Zaharia: Snowflakes



Art No: PP2481
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 35.56 cm (14 inches)
h: 27.94 cm (11 inches)
Year Created: 2017
Medium: Other
Surface: Other

Breaking the Rules



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"Snowflakes" is a personal art creation for winter season. The art render was made in Autodesk Maya, a 3D software, which helped me to recreate a imaginary composition.

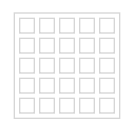
I brake the art rules here because I wanted to to something different, using an animation software, a picture which can be used for a Christmas card, or even a framed photo. I took two words such as "snowflakes" (a winter symbol) and "present "(a gif we usually give/receive in season) and I made a 3-dimensional art composition with color contrast and a big present, using cube and spheres shapes and also different types of snowflakes.

Kara: A Closer Look



Art No: PP2480
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 27.94 cm (11 inches)
h: 38.1 cm (15 inches)
Year Created: 2024
Medium: Other
Surface: Watercolor Paper

This piece of artwork was created using watercolor, ink, a big fat Sharpie, and pencil. I like to put together all sorts of mediums to break out of the norm. I grew up in an exceptionally strict household and love having the freedom to express myself openly as an adult. I work back and forth between paint and ink and pencil. I love to put lots of thick white paint on top of things toward the end of my painting process. White is not a generally accepted paint in watercolor. But I LOVE making my artwork look thick and textured despite the medium. I don't follow proportions, size relations don't matter, angles - nah. I want my work to feel alive and I can't get that without painting furiously and hodgepodge, ALIVE! This painting depicts a woman from a low angle making the viewer consider her in a different way.



Miss Margaret: The Joyce Girls



Art No: PP2462

Artwork Dimensions:

w: 27.94 cm (11 inches)

h: 35.56 cm (14 inches)

Year Created: 2018

Medium: Other

Surface: Paper

I was at the Joyce theater and noticed the Joyce ushers arranged together waiting for the intermission to be over, and was intrigued with the look of it, so when I came home I immediately sketched it from memory. But then when I went back to complete it, the picture resisted completion, so I just added some lines of color and left it alone. Not completing a picture, is I think, breaking the rules. But since the picture resisted my efforts to complete it, I just put it in a mat frame and just let it be unfinished. I like that I just captured that first moment of artistic impulse, that quick sketch when I came home from the performance.



Zaplaflora: Octopus's Garden



Popular
Vote Award

Art No: PP2476
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 102 cm (40.8 inches)
h: 76 cm (30.4 inches)
Year Created: 2024
Medium: Acrylic
Surface: Canvas

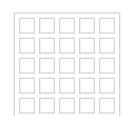
From the first moment I knew about the exhibition "Breaking the Rules", I felt very attracted to this challenge of creating a work of great creativity and originality, which at the same time satisfied the requirement of breaking, for example, some compositional rules.

So, I decided to ignite my emotions, trigger my instincts and give free rein to my imagination, to create one painting that celebrates my individuality, sacrificing compositional norms, with the intended purpose of transmitting a clearer and a more forceful message that could be reached by the viewers at first sight, from the entire painting. I did not want to distract the viewers' attention with specific focal points, or light and dark contrasting spots, or strident color contrasts. I also avoided creating equilibrium.

The first thing I did was trying to "disguise" or "hide" the six focal points that I projected at the beginning of the creation process. I diluted their visibility within a thick multicolored amalgam of tiny details. My intended powerful message had the priority: man is an indissoluble part of Nature; there is a close interdependence between man, fauna and flora; man receives from Nature nourishment, protection, spiritual richness; and in return for all these blessings, man has the unavoidable commitment to care for, protect and preserve animal and flora species, while benefiting and healthily enjoying the natural beauties.

My painting Octopus's Garden is inspired by the lyrics of the Beatles song of the same title. "I'd like to be under the sea in an octopus's garden in the shade; he'd let us in, (he) knows where we've been...We would be warm below the storm; in our little hideaway beneath the waves; resting our head on the sea bed in an octopus's garden near a cave..." In these lyrics there is a clear message about the close interrelation between man, fauna, and flora, and the many benefits that man receives from this "solidarity" interdependence.

I confess that I undertook this project with fear that it would not result in a successful composition that would resonate with art lovers. But I assumed the challenge with pleasure, because it would allow me to submit my painting for a very competitive exhibition, at the same time that I could embrace my true self wholeheartedly. At the end, I enjoyed very much the whole creation process, since I was able to innovate and to imbue my work with the essence of my authentic artistic self.

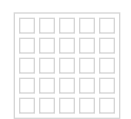


AnnaD: Love



Art No: PP2484
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 120 cm (48 inches)
h: 120 cm (48 inches)
Year Created: 2024
Medium: Acrylic
Surface: Canvas

Breaking the Rules



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Abandoning traditional painting construction - a traditional concept of fine art, painting composition is usually composed of well thought-out figures, objects, tools, in their form and appearance, as they occur in their natural state.

According to the modernist conception of art, which I myself subscribe to, these are not necessary, if only because they can be represented in other, different ways (photograph, poster, edited images, etc.), so that it is unnecessary to apply them in painting, which gives the work more space and freedom of expression.

In creating this image, I wanted to express the hunger for love. Who wouldn't want to cling to it?

Juan Francisco: Towards a Different Approach



Honorable
Mention



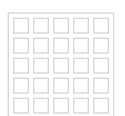
Art No: PP2380
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 150 cm (60 inches)
h: 150 cm (60 inches)
Year Created: 2023
Medium: Oil
Surface: Canvas

I am a self-taught painter. I was born with this love of painting. It has always accompanied me throughout my life, even though I have sometimes mistreated it and hidden it. I didn't study fine arts. That has always been an important burden for me. I have often felt like an intruder in this world of art. Many painters have looked down on me for not having studied fine art.

That made me learn a lot of technique for a few years by going to painting courses with great masters. I needed to acquire skills to be able to keep up. I learned many rules related to color mixing, complementary colors and other color theory, rules of composition, rules on the use of materials, rules on the use of different painting techniques, even rules for cleaning brushes. Everything was rules. Undoubtedly, my painting progressed, my style became more defined, but along the way I lost part of my essence, my creativity and my emotions.

I was a prisoner of the rules for many years, until I questioned leaving painting...

Breaking the Rules



Lesya Shulga: The Little Prince



Art No: PP2436
Artwork Dimensions:
w: 12 cm (4.8 inches)
h: 7 cm (2.8 inches)
Year Created: 2021
Medium: Other
Surface: Other

I broke the size proportion to show the loneliness in the big Universe



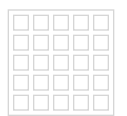


Curator's Note

I was impressed with the quality and variety of entries into this exhibition. The statements given by the artists indicated that many of them gave mindful consideration to the reasons why they entered particular works into this "Breaking the Rules" exhibition. Some said that the theme had in some way broadened their perspective of art and I found that some of the artists broadened my perspective of the myriad ways to interpret the theme of breaking rules.

My selection for the curator's award is "Traveling together." The artist spoke of his/her emotional journey in creating this piece. I loved the many layerings of paint and images that were used to great success, The human figure and dog while superficially imposed on the rest of the painting still tie all the pieces together into an inspirational whole.

Sue Selvey



Exhibition Results

The winners of the contest are:

Curator's Award – "Traveling together" by Monacuba (Russia)

Gallery Award – "Floating" by Zsami (Hungary) and "Spring" by AnnaD (Hungary)

Popular Vote Award – "Octopus's Garden" by Zaplaflora (United States)

Honorable Mention – "Towards a Different Approach" by Juan Francisco (Spain)

