

The Philadelphia Inquirer

WEEKEND

Posted on Fri, Jan. 2, 2009

Main Line Art Center. The unjuried all-media group show now at Main Line turns the wheel for neighborhood art center exhibits. Each of 225 featured artists in this latest "71st Annual Members' Exhibit" displays one work. Judging took place only for the show's 15 prizes and five honorable mentions, not for entries. Prices start at \$45.

True, considerable amateur art is interwoven here with that of solid professionals, the latter including about a dozen well-known regional artists. But the art center has stimulated both of these camps to submit their best work by having a museum curator (Brian H. Peterson of the James A. Michener Art Museum) choose the prizes.

Clearly meriting the top award it won is Edwin Nagel's watercolor *Reflections*, revealing rich experience in this medium and avoiding any sort of fixed image. In this work, both the wonder of nature and its disquieting uncertainty remain intact.

It's time to admit how dull and bankrupt of ideas the average art center members' shows have become. Learning from Main Line's example could make a difference.

Main Line Art Center, 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. To Jan. 10. Mon-Thu 9-9, Fri-Sat 9-8, Sun 10-4.
Closed Jan. 2-4. 610-525-9272.