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RAUN KERCHER AWARDED FIRST PLACE
THE FRANK SCOTT MEMORIAL ART SHOW: THE ART OF JAZZ

Pottstown artist Raun Kercher's acrylic and pastel painting, "All-Star Trio" received first prize for the 10th annual Frank Scott Memorial Art Show: *The Art of Jazz*, a juried exhibition. Juror Dennis Danko chose the winning artwork and pieces to be included in exhibition. Kercher also won first prize in the 2012 *Art of Jazz* from juror Dick Boak.

"Jazz is a multi-faceted idiom. Presenting works of structured pastoral melodies to sounds of fractured energy," Danko shared. "Entries were selected to present various visual counterparts ranging from representational to absolute abstractions."

Liam Harkins of Morgantown received second place for his photograph entitled "Creature Cantina" and third place went to West Chester artist Laurie Lamont-Murray for her acrylic painting, "Smokin'." In addition to the cash awards, Danko named Honorable Mentions for artists Audrey Bordanaro, Miles DeCoster, Lynn Millar, Amy Schade, Birdie Zoltan and Reading High School student artist Cesar Jose Gonzalez. There was no student category; all artists were reviewed based on the caliber of work entered. The People's Choice Award went to Hamburg High School student Jasmine McNeill.

Danko is an adjunct photography professor at Northampton Community College and is the Affiliate Director of the National Scholastic Art Awards. He previously served as the Department Chair of Art and Music at Dieruff High School. Danko is the winner of the 2002 Arts Ovation Award and the 1997 Art of the State for photography. Select solo exhibitions include Franklin & Marshall College 1995, Allentown Art Museum 1994 & 1998, Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science 1997, Germantown Academy Arts Center Gallery 1997, and the Freyberger Gallery at Penn State University 1999. His images are included in many private and public collections, notably the Ray Holland and Linn Fowles collections, Kutztown University, Lehigh University, and the Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network. Danko is a retired bassist with a 25 year career working in bands of various genres, from jazz to pop to country. He has performed at clubs, festivals and concerts locally as well as in New York City and Los Angeles.

The 2014 *Art of Jazz* exhibition features 70 works from 47 participating artists. The exhibit was coordinated and curated by artist Fran Parzanese; it runs March 7 - 27 in the Rolf and Renate Schmidt Gallery at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, 201 Washington Street, Reading leading up to the 24th annual Boscov's Berks Jazz Fest. Parzanese, who reviewed the work as it came in, commented, "I'm so impressed with the quality and variety of work that we received for this show! I look forward to the entries and interpretation of the theme every year."

"The Frank Scott Memorial Art Show: *The Art of Jazz*" and the Frank Scott Memorial award were founded during the 2005 Berks Jazz Fest by Berks Arts Council, along with local businessman and artist Jerry Holleran. The Frank Scott Memorial events honor legendary local jazz musician Frank Scott and are made possible through the generous support of the JerLyn Foundation.

The mission of Berks Arts Council, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is to cultivate, promote and support the arts in our community through collaboration, education, and presentation.

Berks Arts Council presents Boscov's Berks Jazz Fest, Bandshell Concert Series, Hidden River Film Initiative, and Pagoda Awards. The Council administers the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Re-Granting Program, which provides funding to local artists, and provides art exhibition and marketing opportunities for member artists. Visit www.berksarts.org.

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