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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

City of Ontario  
Ontario Museum is History & Art

## **Congratulations to the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Ontario Open Prize Winners!**

Ontario's favorite open call has a new set of winners for its 12<sup>th</sup> biennial exhibition. On May 19, juror Jennifer Kane made her selections. The San Bernardino Art Council's Executive Director reviewed 60 pieces of artwork from artists throughout the Southern California region. Talented artists of all ages and backgrounds submitted their best artwork to this non-profit fundraiser. A mixture of assemblages, paper mâché, photography, oil paintings, and much more are on display in the North Wing gallery of the Museum.

*"This exhibition encourages viewers to pause and pay attention to life's details and expressions - from the sky contemplating what's next to the complex layers of culture and emotions. I was drawn into each piece like an invitation to spend time at a picnic at the artists' favorite space or with their favorite people; the talent was evident across the submissions."*

- Jennifer Kane, Executive Director of the San Bernardino Arts Council

Ms. Kane awarded first place to Sharon Austin, *Painted Face*, second place to Hannah Raykhenberg, *I Will Bury You in Flowers #2*, and third place to Juan Varela, *Our Lady of the Angels*. Four honorable mentions were selected: Sarah Arnold, *Echo Park Tree*, Dr. Chris Kueng, *On the Verge*, Stephen Rybacki, *Unoccupied*, and Lisa Tomczeszyn, *Salt Marsh Daylight*. The City Council Liaison Award went to Dan Frembling, *Running Free*. And lastly, this year, the Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates created a new category called the Steve Thomas Photography/Conservation Award in memory of Steve Thomas, and to honor his contribution to the arts. This newly created award is funded by his wife Donna Chadwick. Steve Thomas developed the first *Ontario*



Open with the non-profit Museum Associates in 2001. Congratulations to Leah Knecht for *Double Exposure*, the first Steve Thomas Photography/Conservation Award recipient.

The Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates would like to thank the sponsors for this year's *Ontario Open*: Paul J. Gomez, Ruby Leavitt, Gary & Janet Manildi, Charles & Connie Uhalley, Cherry Dobbs, Sherry Glab, Donna Chadwick, Mayor pro Tem Debra Porada, The Arts Area, and the Ontario Elks Chapter 1419.

The *12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Ontario Open Art Exhibition* is on view at the Ontario Museum of History & Art until Sunday, July 30, 2023. Don't miss seeing what the Southern California artistic community offers. A reception and award ceremony will be held for the artists on Saturday, July 22, from 5 PM - 7 PM.

To learn more about the *12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Ontario Open Art Exhibition*, visit:  
[OntarioMuseum.org/CurrentExhibitions](https://OntarioMuseum.org/CurrentExhibitions)

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**About the City of Ontario**

The City of Ontario is enhancing the quality-of-life by creating urban lifestyle districts that create sustainable places to live, work and play. Located just east of Los Angeles and Orange counties, the City of Ontario is ideally situated as a gateway to Southern California. With major freeways, rail transportation and an International Airport, Ontario invites the rest of the world to be a part of a culturally diverse community with rich history that is well positioned for quality development and economic sustainability for its residents. Complementing its business and residential core, Ontario offers premium entertainment venues such as the Ontario Convention Center, Toyota Arena, and Ontario Mills. To learn more about the City of Ontario, visit [OntarioCA.gov](https://OntarioCA.gov) or call (909) 395-2000.

