



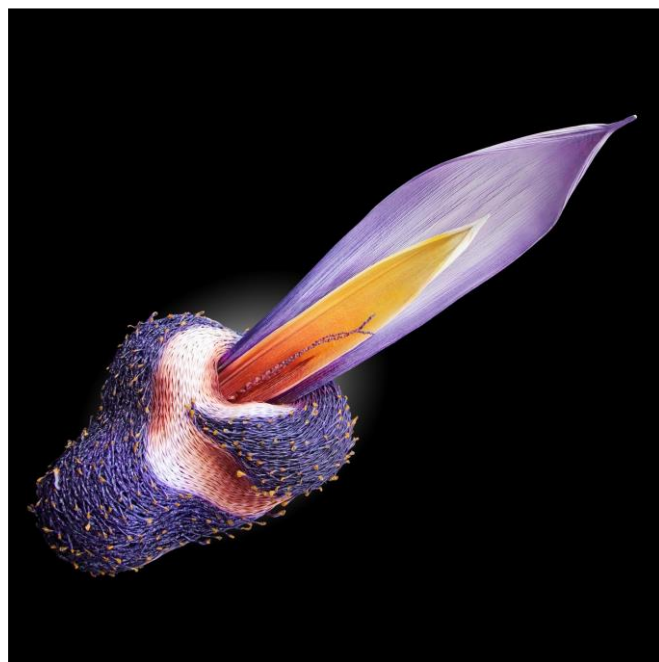
Sally J. Bright
Artist Judge
SallyJBright.com

Hot Works.org 24^h
Estero Fine Art Show
January 2 & 3, 2021
Outdoors at JetBlue Park, Fort Myers, FL

ARTISTIC HISTORY

Like each of you, I've "done" art forever & finally landed in the craft of basketry in 1982. I signed up for a class on the basics of basket weaving, but did not follow the directions from the workshop teacher. Instead I forged my own techniques and style. After 33 years of doing Art Shows, I retired from them in March of 2018, at the end of the Gasparilla Arts Festival, in Tampa, Florida.

When choosing art to buy, or judging art in shows or exhibitions, I look for excellence of technique and craftsmanship, and creative ideas in both subject matter and execution of abstract ideas into physical form. When I visit your booth, tell me what makes your art different from other work in the same category.



INDUSTRY SERVICE

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Oct 14-Present | Director position on the Board for Fenton Arts Council (FAC, Fenton, MI) |
| Nov 14-Present | FAC webmaster, newsletter editor and Communications Chair |
| Sep 2003–Dec 2009 | National Association of Independent Artists (NAIA), Director |
| 2006–Dec 2009 | NAIA webmaster |
| Jan 2007–Dec 2009 | Chairman of the NAIA Board of Directors |
| Oct 2007–Dec 2009 | Acting Executive Director of NAIA |
| 2000 – 2011 | Creator and owner of ArtShowArtists.com, a free directory of over 3,000 artists that exhibit in art shows as part of their arts business. The site is now obsolete however the photos and data are archived. |



Sally J. Bright, Basekry Sculpture, page 2 of 3

Imagine a large, convoluted shape of air. Next imagine weaving vine-like pieces of rattan and palm around that shape to enclose and define it. That is how these shapes are created.

"A piece may begin as a response to a mood, the essence of a shape, or a feeling about a material or color combination. The most successful work comes when I am able to sustain that feeling and follow it, allowing the piece to become what it needs to be. Certainly I look to create beauty. More importantly, I look to evoke an emotional reaction within the person viewing a work."

Each basket is an original creation, designed and woven entirely by Sally without assistance from employees, apprentices or helpers. She first studies an idea through drawings and fashioning small clay models. As she begins work on the actual piece, Sally mentally/visually enlarges the design to full size. She does not use molds or armatures to form her creations. The flowing shapes are deliberately formed during the weaving; gradually building the shape one row, one 'stitch' at a time. Her creations are woven mostly of rattan and palm. After completion of the weaving, she applies 40 – 50 coats of translucent acrylic paint, and several coats of sealant. Depending on the intricacy of the design and the detail involved, it may take up to three months to complete a piece.



AWARDS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|
| AWARD of EXCELLENCE | Tampa, FL | 2014 |
| BEST of SHOW | Orchard Lake Fine Art Show, MI | 2013 |
| AWARD of EXCELLENCE | Orchard Lake Fine Art Show, MI | 2012 |
| AWARD of EXCELLENCE | Fort Worth, TX | 2012 |
| BEST of MEDIUM | Estero, FL | 2012, 2013 |
| BEST of MEDIUM | Boca Raton, FL | 2011 |
| BEST of MEDIUM | Estero, FL | 2012, 2011 |
| BEST of SHOW | Estero, FL | 2010 |
| BEST of SHOW - 3D | Kansas City, MO | 2009 |
| AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | Kansas City, MO | 2008 |
| AWARD OF EXCELLENCE | Tampa, FL | 2008 |
| BEST of SHOW | Birmingham, MI | 2005 |
| BEST of SHOW | Bonita Springs, FL | 2004 |
| BEST of SHOW | Sun Valley, ID | 2001 |
| Fine Crafts, 3 rd Place | Northern Virginia Arts Show, Reston, VA | 2003 |
| BEST of MEDIUM | Boca Raton Museum, Boca Raton, FL | 2003 |
| AWARD OF DISTINCTION | Bonita Springs National, Bonita Springs, FL | 2003 |
| BEST of SHOW | Lafayette Art Festival, Lafayette, IN | 2002 |
| JUDGES AWARD | Main St. Art Festival, Ft. Worth, TX | 2002 |
| AWARD OF DISTINCTION | Bonita Springs National, Bonita Springs, FL | 2002 |
| BEST of MEDIUM | Austin Fine Arts Festival, Austin, TX | 2000 |
| BEST of MEDIUM | Lakefront Art Festival, Milwaukee | 1998 |
| BEST of MEDIUM | Fine Crafts Show, Highland Park, IL | 2000 |
| BEST of SHOW | New Orleans Jazz Fest, New Orleans | 1999 |
| BEST of SHOW | Artigras, W. Palm Beach | 1998 |
| BEST of SHOW | Lakeshore Festival, Evanston, IL | 1995 |
| BEST of MEDIUM | Lakeshore Festival, Evanston, IL | 1998, 1997 |
| 2 nd BEST of SHOW | Las Olas Museum Show, Ft. Lauderdale, FL | 1996 |
| BEST of SHOW | Manatee Fine Arts Fest, Crystal River, FL | 1996 |
| Artistic Excellence Award | Atlanta Arts Festival, Atlanta | 1997, 1996 |
| FIRST PLACE | TS Festival of Art, Tarpon Springs, FL | 1999 |
| Artistic Excellence Award | Arts, Beats & Eats, Pontiac, MI | 1999 |
| 2 nd PLACE | Artigras, W. Palm Beach | 1999 |
| JUDGES AWARD | Cain Park Festival, Cleveland Heights, OH | 1997, 1996 |
| MERIT AWARD | Columbus Art Fair, Columbus, OH | 1996 |
| MERIT AWARD | Uptown Arts Fair, Minneapolis, MN | 1994, 1993 |
| Artistic Excellence Award | Colorado Indian Market, Denver, CO | 1999 |

EXHIBITS

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|---|------|
| Solo Invitational Exhibit at the Ferris Wheel, Flint, MI | 2018 |
| LAAC Fine Art Exhibit, Fenton, MI | 2015 |
| Invitational Exhibit at Sotheby's, Islamorada, FL | 2012 |
| Solo Exhibit, Jazz Baskets, Peoria, IL | 2011 |
| Invitational Winner's Exhibit, Reston, VA | 2004 |
| Invitational Exhibit with the Gatherers, Keystone, Colorado | 2002 |
| Invitational Exhibit with the Gatherers, Omaha, Nebraska | 2002 |
| Greater Flint Arts Council, Flint, Michigan (2 nd place award) | 2002 |
| Genesys Hospital Art Exhibit, Flint, Michigan, Washington, D.C. | 2002 |
| Kennedy Center Invitational | 1999 |
| Best of Guild Exhibit (Michigan National Arts Guild), Ann Arbor, MI | 1991 |
| Solo Exhibit at Curwood Castle, Owosso, MI | 1988 |
| Basketweave 88, Athens, OH | 1988 |
| Solo Exhibit at American Hartland Theatre, Kansas City, MO | 1997 |
| Fiber Celebrated, Northern Arizona University | 1987 |
| Cotton Daze – Summer Haze, Louisiana State University | 1987 |

COLLECTIONS

Amoco, US Ambassador to Estonia official residence, State of Michigan, Longmont United Hospital, Barnett Bank, MSI Insurance, Morgan & Myers, Buffalo Ridge Insurance, Expert DesignWare, Odyssey Marine Exploration, Creative Strategies Group, M Crowd Restaurant Group

JUDGING

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Estero Fine Art Show | 2015 |
| Orchard Lake Fine Art Show | 2012 |
| Sun Valley Art & Craft Festival | 2003 |
| Arts, Beats & Eats (Art/Craft Fest) | 2003 |

TECHNIQUE

Imagine a large, convoluted shape of air. Next imagine weaving vinelike pieces of rattan and palm around that shape to enclose and define it. That is how these shapes are created. The artist first designs the shape in clay, about 5" x 8", then mentally enlarges the design to full size. The next step is determining how to bend the warp and weft around this virtual shape of air to actually weave the piece, while retaining the integrity of the weave and creating a sturdy, valid sculpture. The color design is also planned ahead and woven into the piece – not just painted on after weaving. There are no molds or armature used under the weaving, the piece is it's own armature. There are no assistants, employees or helpers.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As I look for new challenges the work becomes more complex. Sometimes a piece begins as a response to a material or a color combination, but usually the 'feeling' of the 'essence' of a shape or a mood are the beginning. The most successful work comes when I am able to sustain that 'essence' and follow it - when I give in and allow the piece to become what it needs to be. This does not mean there is no thought behind a piece - there are design and craftsmanship decisions to make every minute. My goal is to continually stretch the definition of what the ancient craft of basketry can be. To excite emotion in the viewer. To increase the complexity of my work. To create beauty.

EDUCATION

Associates Degree in Art from Mott College, Flint, Michigan
Continuing education classes on techniques every year or two

