



5500 First Avenue · Kenosha, WI 53140 · www.KenoshaPublicMuseum.org

The Kenosha Public Museum will hold its first international juried art exhibit in 2022, thanks to a \$100,000 endowment from the International Society of Acrylic Painters. The exhibit will return every-other-year as a biennial event.

The International Society of Acrylic Painters (ISAP) board and members voted to disband their organization after a successful 25 year history. Dan Simoneau, local artist and President of the ISAP, recommended the Kenosha Public Museum and helped museum staff secure the gift. The ISAP was impressed by the Museum and its reputation for presenting art exhibits, including the Transparent Watercolor Society of America National Juried Exhibition which it has hosted for over a decade.

“As with other similar all-volunteer organizations, ISAP experienced a decline in members who have the time and interest to govern the organization. The board decided to donate most of its assets to an organization that would take up the cause of promoting and recognizing acrylic painting,” said Simoneau. “ISAP has been by far the largest of the few international art societies recognizing acrylic painting. We wanted to ensure our legacy continued with a museum known for world-class art exhibitions and a staff dedicated to seeing that our legacy and focus on acrylic painting continues. This endowment will allow them to do that.”

Like past ISAP shows, adult artists from the United States and beyond will be invited to submit original images. A special guest artist prominent in the field of acrylic painting will judge the entries on such qualities as creativity, originality, and skillful use of the medium. The juror will select the best works to receive awards sponsored prizes, and many of the paintings will be available for purchase.

Kenosha Public Museum Curator, Rachel Klees Andersen says, “We're very excited to have this opportunity to start our own juried exhibition, and we couldn't have a better partner than Dan Simoneau to launch this major project. Dan was instrumental in bringing this honor to the KPM, and brings years of experience as President and Exhibition Chair of ISAP. He's also an outstanding artist whose work has won awards in the U.S. and abroad, and was featured in a solo exhibition at the KPM in 2017.”

“We hope to attract a diverse group of artists, including past members of ISAP, dedicated professionals, and aspiring painters, and a wide variety of subjects and styles,” said Klees Andersen. Interim Museum Director Peggy Gregorski agrees. “This gift from ISAP will make Kenosha the center of the best of current acrylic painting from around the globe.” Giving people a great place to exhibit and enjoy art has been an important part of the museum's mission since the very beginning. “Offering this exhibit every other year will generate excitement from visitors from near and far to come back with their family and friends.”