

SPECIAL ISSUE

**16th Annual
Strokes of Genius
Competition
Winners**

THE BEST OF
Drawing

PRESENTED BY ARTISTS MAGAZINE AND AMERICAN ARTIST

**Art &
Artistry**

Learn From Artists
About the Inspiration,
Materials & Choices
Behind Their Work

**Creative
Alchemy**

Juror of Awards
Rick Shaefer on
the Magic Behind
Artistic Excellence

**MARKS OF
DISTINCTION**

127 Works That
Underscore the Creative
Potential of Drawing Media

WINTER 2025



EARLY AUTUMN BORDER
Rachael Grimm
(charcoal on paper, 38x52)

I love to garden (almost) as much as I love to draw and paint. For me, planning a flower border is a lot like planning a painting or drawing. I think about the rhythm of composition created by the relationship between plants of different heights, textures and shapes. In *Early Autumn Border*, my goal was to convey the energy running through this section of border and to capture the essence of the plants at this time of year. I wanted to create the feeling of standing right in front of the plants and looking at them closely to see how they interact to create a harmonious whole.



A TABLE OF STORIES AND TALES
Rosanna Gaddoni
(charcoal on paper, 9x12)

While traveling in the Netherlands, my husband and I stopped into an old café for a coffee. From my seat, I noticed a table that had just been vacated by a group of visitors. The sunset light filtering through the curtains brought that corner to life, and I could almost hear the voices and stories that had been shared. Back in my studio, I sought to re-create that atmosphere. This piece is a sweet postcard from the past, witnessing the lingering warmth of shared moments.



Strokes *16*
of Genius

Finalist

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