

AARON ANDERS | Salina Journal

The Salina Art Center will be showcasing the new exhibit "Small Gestures of Repair" in the South Gallery at Salina Art Center, 242 S Santa Fe Ave., from April 21 through May 30.

An opening reception for "Small Gestures of Repair" will be held from 5-7 p.m. April 23. The juried exhibition features the work of 23 artists from across the United States and one from Austria.

The artwork reflects the challenges of 2020; a time of global pandemic, ecological disaster, racial unrest, economic crisis, and political contention. The statements of the artists themselves bear witness to the times as they record the living hardships of what it is to be human in a time of disease and frayed edges.

Juror Joyce Harlow saw very real tension among the varied pieces in this show — the tension between loneliness, isolation, despair, and fragility on one hand, balanced against the need for expressions of beauty, hope, connection, and "control of the broken pieces" on the other.

The works in Small Gestures of Repair explore many layers of obscured reality, find beauty in imperfections, combine the grotesque with the

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meditative practices, and find reparation in, as exhibition artist, Dale Hartley states, "go(ing) forward instead of stumbling to a stop."

"We always carry with us our storage or travel bags," notes artist Becky Hyberger in a release. What the viewer of this exhibit finds at the end of 2020's long journey is a sense of catharsis and more than one gesture of repair embedded in this honest and unfiltered art.

The artist displaying artwork in the exhibit are Kayla Borell, of Lindsborg; Connie Burket, of Salina; Norman Carr, of Wichita; Sandra Jean Ceas; of Littleton, CO; Hannah Crickman, of Salina; Joey Embers of Topeka; Kitty Fapp of Manhattan; Linda Foster, of Miltonvale; Nina Gospodin, of Vienna, Austria; Michaela Groeblacher of Lindsborg; Sarah Gross of Lawrence; Dale Hartley of Emporia, Becky Hyberger of Salina; Gesine Janzen of Bozeman, MT; Alex Moore of Wichita; Andre Ramos-Woodard of Albuquerque, NM, Cooper Siegel of Jefferson, MD; Amanda Smith of Springfield, MO; Jade Solch of Charlotte, NC; Debbie Wagner of Bennington; Liz Walker of Eudora; Casey Whittier of Kansas City and Morgan Ford Willingham of Emporia.

First place (Juror's Choice) receives a \$250 award, second place receives \$100 award, and a People's Choice Award winner receives an Art Center Gift Bag.