



Brenda Kidera
2018 Outstanding Artist
Howie Honoree
Example Application

To: Selection Committee for the 2017 Howie Outstanding Artist Award

From: Mary Jo Messenger

Date: October 22, 2017

I am writing to nominate Brenda Kidera for the Howie Award for Outstanding Artist.

As one who has attended the Howard County Celebration of the Arts Gala for a number of years and who has admired the extremely talented individuals who have received the Howies, I know that those awards always go to people who are technical masters of their means of expression, who are passionate about and dedicated to their craft, and who have had broad and deep impact in our community and beyond.

Brenda Kidera, an exceptionally talented contemporary realist painter who has lived in Howard County since age 6 and is thus a true product of Howard County, perfectly embodies every one of these qualities and is most deserving of the Howie Award for Outstanding Artist.

With regard to her technical skills, Brenda is truly a master. Whether working in oil, acrylics, or water color, Brenda's mastery of technique shines through. Among many other works, "Pink Fluff," a study in pink and red featuring a flock of Roseate Spoonbills, demonstrates her exquisite knowledge and use of color (see the painting and hear her descriptions [here](#)¹). Her "Tranquility" is just one example of her ability to capture the subtleties of light and shadow, which, of course, are all-important to a visual artist (see the painting and hear her description [here](#)²). Her keen eye for composition and the amount of thought and planning she puts into that aspect of her art—whether in a landscape, a portrait, or a painting of animals—is abundantly clear in every one of her works (her comments on "Tranquility" also deal give insight into her expertise in composition).

One would think that the skills of an artist as talented as Brenda would have been recognized far and wide—and indeed they have been. Her work has been selected to appear in a great many shows. She has participated in a total of well over 100 shows; and, so far in 2017 alone, she has participated in 17 shows in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, including shows of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters, the Baltimore Watercolor Society's Mid-Atlantic Exhibition, and the Oil Painters of America 26th Annual Nation Exhibition in Cincinnati. Simply having been chosen to have works in all these shows is a tribute to her expert skills.

Brenda has won many specific awards for her art work. In addition to her Best-in-Show Award for the Plein Air Paintout in Frederick in June, 2017, she won the M. Graham Award in 2016, and in 2013 she won the Canson-Arches Award at the Baltimore Watercolor Society's Mid-Atlantic Exhibit. In 2010, Brenda won the People's Choice Award and Second Place at the Washington Society of Landscape Painters Exhibit, and honorable Mention at the Baltimore

¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGdm_JWpC3o

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Tx3JyYleWc>

Watercolor Society's 125th Anniversary Exhibit. Numerous other awards are listed in her resume.

Further proof of Brenda's mastery of her craft can be seen in her having been selected as a juried signature member of these organizations: the Washington Society of Landscape Painters (of which she has been a Board member); the Baltimore Watercolor Society (of which she has served on Board of Governors), of Animal Artists, and of Potomac Valley Watercolorists. Further recognitions of her talent and accomplishments are shown in the fact that she has been asked to serve as a juror for the Baltimore Watercolor Society, the Delaware Watercolor Society, and other regional exhibits. Only the best of the best are invited to participate in these ways.

In addition to exhibiting her consummate technical skills, Brenda's paintings also radiate the passion and dedication she brings to her art. The spirit and personality of each of her portraits subjects fairly jump off the canvas, and her landscapes and paintings of flora and fauna at once capture both the simplicity and the complexity of nature with all its nuances. One cannot help but marvel at the love of people and nature that shines through and permeates her work. But the enchantment created by her paintings is deceptively simple as it hides the tremendous hard work and dedication through which she creates each piece of art.

A further demonstration of Brenda's passion and dedication to art lies in her constant striving to further her craft. After early studies and her graduation with honors from Towson University, she then studied both art and architecture in Florence, Italy. Now, although already at the very top of her profession, she continues private instruction with master artist David Zuccarini, and she still seeks various avenues to expand and broaden her skills by attending workshops with nationally recognized artists, such as Martha Mans, Linda Moyer, Joe Fettingis, Nicholas Simmons, Louis Escobedo, Paul Jackson, and Linda Baker.

Her reasons for pursuing these additional avenues of study are not for herself alone: a warm and inspiring teacher, Brenda has for 20 years openly and actively shared her knowledge and expertise in our community and beyond. She regularly teaches classes for children, teens, and adults at her own studio and through such organizations as Howard County Recreation and Parks, the Columbia Arts Center, and the Art League of Ocean City. In addition, she has a remarkable record of teaching workshops for local and regional organizations, including the Washington Society of Landscape Painters, the Laurel Art Guild, the Baltimore Watercolor Society, and the Delaware Watercolor Society, among others. Her series of youtube.com videos is yet another way in which Brenda eagerly and expertly shares her knowledge far beyond her community. One of the hallmarks of a truly outstanding artist is the ability to inspire others to find their own talents and develop their own skills. Through her teaching and other outreach, Brenda has done—and continues to do—just that to a remarkable degree.

In summary, Brenda Kidera is richly deserving of the Howie Award for Outstanding Artist because her expertise, accomplishments, and dedication to her craft mark her as a truly exceptional artist, one who has not only reached the pinnacle of her own success, but who also makes impressive contributions to the arts in Howard County and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Jo Messenger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".



BRENDA WILL KIDERA

Fine Art

KIDERAFINEART.COM

WOODBINE, MARYLAND

LANDSCAPE • WILDLIFE • PORTRAIT • STILL LIFE • FLORAL

Brenda Kidera is a classical realist artist. Her paintings reflect a deep appreciation for the beauty of nature. Kidera captures moments in time with brushstrokes that convey the light and mood and exquisite details of her subject matter. The subjects of her paintings vary, including landscape, wildlife, portrait, still life and floral. Her work has won many awards and has been exhibited throughout the US, including one-woman shows and major art exhibitions. Kidera has been teaching painting in watercolor, oil and acrylic since the 1990's. She is currently working on a series of instructional videos.

Beyond a fine art degree, Kidera studied classical oil painting

and has attended workshops with several nationally recognized artists. Her work has been featured in many publications. Juried signature artist memberships include the Baltimore Watercolor Society, Washington Society of Landscape Painters, Society of Animal Artists, and Potomac Valley Watercolorists. For many years, she has taught painting classes and workshops and continues to paint commissioned portraits, landscapes and other subjects for a wide range of clients.

Kidera's studio is located in Woodbine, Maryland surrounded by gardens and wildlife which are inspiration for many of her paintings. Kidera lives with her husband, metal sculptor Ed Kidera.

ORGANIZATIONS, Current & Past

- Juried Signature Artist Member of Washington Society of Landscape Painters: 2009 to present; Board Member
- Juried Signature Artist Member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society: 1987 to present. Served on Board of Governors.
- Juried Signature Artist Member Society of Animal Artists: 2011 to present
- Juried Artist Member of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists: 1996 to present
- Member of the National Watercolor Society, American Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Oil Painters of America
- Member of Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association
- Howard County Arts Council

JUROR

- Baltimore Watercolor Society
- Delaware Watercolor Society
- Johns Hopkins University/Applied Physics Laboratory
- Other regional exhibits

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Too many to mention here.

GALLERIES

- HorseSpirit Arts Gallery, Ellicott City, MD
- Peninsula Gallery, Lewes, Delaware

TEACHING - 1997 TO PRESENT

- Adult Classes in Watercolor, Oil, Acrylic, and Drawing
- Guest artist/speaker/workshop instructor for arts organizations: Baltimore Watercolor Society; Washington Society of Landscape Painters; Delaware Watercolor Society; Annapolis Watercolor Society; Olney Art Association; Carroll County Artists Guild; Montgomery Art Association; Laurel Art Guild; Chesapeake Decorative Painters Society; Others
- Howard County Recreation & Parks: 2006 to Present
- Columbia Art Center
- Art League of Ocean City
- Fine Art to Teens & Children

EDUCATION

- Towson University, Fine Art, with Honors
- Studied Art and Architecture in Florence, Italy
- Studio Art: Private Instruction with David Zuccarini
- Workshops: Martha Mans, Linda Moyer, Joe Fettingis, Nicholas Simmons, Louis Escobedo, Paul Jackson, Linda Baker



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PARTIAL LIST OF GALLERY & JURIED EXHIBITIONS, AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2017.....Washington Society of Landscape Painters, The Athenaeum, Alexandria, VA
2017.....Bethesda Row, Bethesda, MD
2017.....Historic Ellicott City Showhouse, White Hall, Ellicott City, MD
2017.....Slayton House 50/50 Reunion Show, Columbia, MD
2017.....Rehoboth Art League 44th Annual Fine Art Show, Rehoboth Beach, DE
2017.....Countryside Artisans at BlackRock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD
2017.....Countryside Artisans at Kentlands, Gaithersburg, MD
2017.....Baltimore Watercolor Society's Mid-Atlantic Exhibition, BlackRock Center, Germantown, MD, "The Huntress" selected by Frank Eber.
2017.....Washington Society of Landscape Painters at Delaplaine, Frederick, MD
2017.....Barnstormers Tour & Plein Air - Best in Show Award
2017.....Oil Painters of America 26th Annual National Exhibition, Cincinnati, OH
2017.....Fantastic Reality - Steampunk, Peninsula Gallery, Lewes DE
2017.....Springing into Summer, Peninsula Gallery, Lewes, DE
2017.....Solo Show, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD
2017.....Annapolis Conservancy String of Pearls Exhibit, City Hall, Annapolis
2017.....Howard County Open, Howard County Center for the Arts, Ellicott City, MD
2014 to 2017...Mount Gretna Art Show, Mount Gretna, PA
2016.....Solo Show, NatureWorks, at BlackRock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD
2016.....Baltimore Watercolor Society's Mid-Atlantic Exhibition, BlackRock Center "Something Old, Something New" Selected by Joyce Hicks. McGraham Award
2016.....From the Garden, Two Woman Show at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD
2016.....Oil & Water, Works by Brenda Kidera and Students, Bernice Kish Gallery, Columbia, MD
2016.....Chasen Gallery, Richmond, VA, Works by the Washington Society of Landscape Painters
2016.....Howard County Open, Howard County Center for the Arts, Ellicott City, MD
2009 to 2016....St Peter's Art Show, Lewes, DE
2016.....Long's Park Art Festival
2014,2015,2016...Small Jewels Exhibit, Peninsula Gallery, Lewes, DE
2011 to 2016...Waterfowl Festival, Easton, MD, November
2015.....Society of Animal Artists 55th Annual Exhibition, "The Fab Four" selected. Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Amhurst, NY
2015.....Pennsylvania Watercolor Society's 36th Annual Juried Exhibition, "Atlantic Coral Reef" Selected
2015...Washington Society of Landscape Painters at Prince Georges Comm. College, "Light and Shadow--The Energy of the Landscape"
2015.....Baltimore Watercolor Society's Mid-Atlantic Exhibition, BlackRock Center for the Arts, "Red & White" selected
2015.....Potomac River Painters: Four Person Show at American Painting, Wash., DC
2015.....Meeting House Gallery Exhibit, Columbia, MD
2009-2015 "Small Treasures" - Paintings by The Washington Society of Landscape Painters - American Painting Fine Art Gallery
2015 & 2014....Art of the Animal Kingdom, Peninsula Gallery, Lewes, DE
2014.....Society of Animal Artists 53rd Annual Exhibition, "Pink Fluff" selected; August 23-October 22, The Wildlife Experience, Parker, CO
2014.....Washington Society of Landscape Painters at National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD
2014.....Timeless Traditions, Today's Landscapes, WSLP at BlackRock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD
2014.....American Painting, Washington, DC, Images of DC
2012-2013....Society of Animal Artists 52nd Annual Exhibition, "Tranquility" was selected; September-1-December 31, Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum, Oradell, NJ; travels to Univ of KY in Lexington, Kenosha Public Museum, Kenosha, WI, and Charles H. MacNider Art Museum, Mason City, IA thru August 31, 2013
2013.....Celebrating 100 Years, Paintings by the Washington Society of Landscape Painters, River District Art Center, Sperryville, VA, August 3-September 28
2013.....American Painting Fine Art Gallery, Washington, DC, "The Art of Washington, DC", June 8-September 28
2013.....National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD, Solo Exhibit
2013.....Baltimore Watercolor Society's Mid-Atlantic Exhibition, Stevenson University, Stevenson, MD, June 10-July 31, "Refreshing", winner of the Conson-Arches Award
2013.....Celebrating 100 Years, Paintings by the Washington Society of Landscape Painters, McBride Gallery, Annapolis, MD, July 7-July 28
2009-2013...St. Peters 45th Annual Art Show-Lewes, DE
2013....."Art at the Mill", Millwood, VA, April 27-May 12
2013....."Haikus for Hope", Columbia Art Center, Columbia, MD, April 5-April 28
2013....."Centennial Exhibition of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters", Arts Club of Washington, Washington, DC, April 5-April 27
2012.....American Painting Fine Art Gallery, Washington, DC, "Small Treasures", November 17-January 26
2012.....Still Life Gallery, Ellicott City, MD, November-January
2012.....Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA - September 28-October 21
2012.....Zoll Studio of Fine Art, Timonium, MD, Baltimore Watercolor Society
2008-2012...Oxford Fine Arts Fair, Oxford, MD, May
2012....."Ninety-Nine Years and Counting: An Exhibition by the Washington Society of Landscape Painters" at Prince George's Comm.Coll., January 17-February 16
2011....."Society of Animal Artists 51st Annual Exhibition 2011" "Little Green Heron" was selected; September 17 - December 31, Dennis Museum Center, Traverse City, MI; travels to Newport News, VA and Ocala, FL thru June, 2012
2011....."Historic Washington" at American Painting Fine Art, Washington, DC
2011.....Edison Gallery, Washington, DC - April 19-May 27, 2011
2011....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 126th Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition" - Mansion at Strathmore, Bethesda - Jack Richeson Award.
2011....."Baltimore Watercolor Society at Gordon Center for the Performing Arts"
2008-2011...Patuxent Wildlife Art Show-Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, MD
2010 Annual Competition - Washington Society of Landscape Painters (WSLP)- People's Choice Award & Second Place
2010....."The Chesapeake Bay and Beyond: Paintings by the Washington Society of Landscape Painters" - University of Maryland University College
2010....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 125th Anniversary Exhibition at Montpelier Cultural Art Center - Honorable Mention
2010.....Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association's "Plein Air at the St. Paul's Schools" - Ward Center for the Arts
2010....."Portraits of Life" - Six Women Artists; Three Exhibits: Columbia Art Center, Glenview Mansion, The Delaplaine Visual Arts Center
2010....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 125th Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition" - Mansion at Strathmore, Bethesda.
2010....."Modern Painters" - Paintings by the Potomac River School - American Painting Fine Art Gallery

2010.....Kenlands Mansion - Baltimore Watercolor Society Juried Ex.
 2010....."Landscapes Near & Far" - WSLP
 2010....."Small Treasures" - WSLP - American Painting Fine Art Gallery
 2009.....2009 Annual Competition - WSLP - Third Place
 2009....."Watercolor Magic" - A Collection of Works by Brenda Kidera & Her Students" - Slayton House Gallery
 2009....."Patuxent Valley Watercolorists at Brookside Gardens"
 2009.....Herndon Artspace "Open Spaces" with Washington Society of Landscape Painters
 2009....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 124th Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition" - Mansion at Strathmore, Bethesda.
 2008.....LaTerra Gallery - One Woman Show
 2008.....Brookside Gardens Baltimore Watercolor Soc. Exhibit - Honorable Mention
 2008.....Fairhaven - Two Woman Show
 2008.....BWS Catonsville Plein Air Art Exhibit, Comm. College of Baltimore County
 2008.....Mount Gretna Fine Arts Show
 2008.....SEWE: Southeastern Wildlife Exhibition, Charleston, SC
 2008.....Baltimore Watercolor Society's Glenview Mansion Show: Honorable Mention
 2007....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 122nd Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition" - Strathmore Hall, Bethesda.
 2006....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 121st Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition" - Strathmore Hall, Bethesda. Potomac Valley Watercolorists Award - \$250
 2006....."Fairhaven's 2006 Ninth Biennial Juried Art Exhibit" - First Place: \$1,000
 2006.....Bendann Art Gallery "The Art of Watercolor" Exhibition
 2006.....Oxford Fine Arts Invitational
 2006.....Waterfowl Festival, Easton, MD
 2005.....Baltimore Watercolor Society Gallery Unicorn, Lutherville, MD: Honorable Mention
 2005.....Baltimore Watercolor Society Redeemer Show, Baltimore, MD: Second Place.
 2005....."A Realistic View: A Collection of Works by Brenda Kidera & Her Students" - Slayton House Gallery
 2005.....Historic Ellicott City Showhouse: "Longwood": Glenwood, MD
 2005....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 120th Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition" - Strathmore Hall, Bethesda
 2004....."Side by Side": Philadelphia Water Color Society/National Watercolor Society Juried Show, San Pedro, CA
 2004....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 119th Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition"
 2004....."Laurel Art Guild's 35th Annual Open Juried Exhibition"
 2004....."Fairhaven's 2004 Eighth Biennial Juried Art Exhibit"
 2004....."The Celebration of the Arts": Ho. County
 2003....."Art Howard County: Biennial Juried Exhibition": Howard County Center for the Arts
 2003....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 118th Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition"
 2002.....Potomac Valley Watercolorists Exhibition at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis
 2002.....Feature in Watercolor Magic magazine's 2002 Yearbook issue: Ones to Watch
 2002....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 117th Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition"
 2002....."Resident Artists Exhibition": HCCA
 2001....."Baltimore Watercolor Society All Members Exhibition": Quiet Waters Park: Second Place
 2001....."Resident Artists Exhibition": HCCA
 2001....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's 116th Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition": Sixth Place: M. Graham & Company Award
 2001....."The Celebration of the Arts": Ho. Co.
 2000....."Fairhaven's 2000 Sixth Biennial Juried Art Exhibit": Two Awards: The J. Robert Dodge Memorial Award & Honorable Mention
 2000....."The Artist and the Process:

Resident Artists Exhibition": HCCA
 2000....."Laurel Art Guild's 31st Annual Open Juried Exhibition"
 1999....."Art Howard County: Biennial Juried Exhibition": Howard County Center for the Arts
 1999....."Then and Now: Visual Artists Alliance Retrospective"
 1999....."Baltimore Watercolor Society All Members Exhibition": Quiet Waters Park: Second Place
 1999....."Inside/Outside: Resident Artists Exhibition": HCCA
 1999....."Works by Contemporary Maryland Artists": Government House, Annapolis
 1999....."The Celebration of the Arts": Ho. County
 1999....."Laurel Art Guild's 30th Annual Open Juried Art Exhibition"
 1998....."The Tea Party: Strathmore Hall Multi-Media Juried Exhibition"
 1998....."Fairhaven's 1998 Fifth Biennial Juried Art Exhibit"
 1998.....Laurel Art Guild's 27th Annual Juried Art Exhibition: First Place
 Art Exhibition": Second Place
 1995.....Baltimore Watercolor Society's "Three Arts Club of Homeland Ex.": Second Place
 1995.....Slayton House: "Watercolor Through the Eyes of Women"
 1995....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's Board of Governor's Exhibit" at the Federal Reserve Bank in Baltimore
 1996.....Baltimore Watercolor Society's "Hoffberger Gallery Exhibition"
 1997....."Art HoCo" at HCCA
 1997....."Baltimore Watercolor Society's All Member Show at Quiet Waters Park"
 1997....."Laurel Art Guild's 26th Annual Juried

To: Selection Committee for the 2017 Howie Outstanding Artist Award

From: Lynda Mitic

Date: October 28th, 2017

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the nomination of outstanding artist, Brenda Kidera, for this year's Howie award. Over the years, in David Zuccarini's oil painting classes, I have had the privilege of knowing Brenda and of seeing the myriad paintings that she has produced during that time. Anyone who is familiar with her impressive body of work, knows that she would be an excellent choice for this award and a deserving candidate for this honor.


The very high quality of Brenda's work is apparent in every painting she produces. Her painting technique, her attention to details, her capturing of the light and warmth in the presentation of her subjects, her use of color, and her intuitive ability to compose the images that she paints all contribute to her spectacular collection of paintings. She has an excellent eye for what will make a memorable painting. Brenda is a master painter, and she is highly respected and admired by her colleagues.

The wide range of the subjects of her focus attests to her interests and energy! Many of her paintings find their roots in the natural world and are often drawn from her own home and its expansive grounds. The many portraits that she has painted are a testimony to her skillful capturing of the essence of her subjects, be they human or animal. Her still life and floral paintings speak to her love of plants and flowers and her desire to capture them at their peak of beauty. Her website, www.brendakidera.com, abounds with the vibrancy of her work.

Brenda is recognized in our community as an outstanding artist. She is a major artist at Horse Spirit Gallery in Ellicott City where her landscapes and still lifes are in demand. She has had many commissions over the years and is sought after to paint family portraits in particular. As her bio indicates, she belongs to many arts organizations, and she has won many honors over the years in juried exhibitions around the country. She conducts workshops in our area, and teaches classes in her studio as well as for the Department of Parks and Recreation. In these many ways, Brenda makes a significant contribution to Howard County's arts community and to bringing outstanding art to the residents of Howard County.

It is with great personal admiration for her talents and for the tremendous gifts she brings to the art scene in Howard County that I recommend Brenda Kidera for 2017's Howie Award for Outstanding Artist. She has proven herself worthy of this distinction!

Yours truly,



Lynda Mitic



Brenda Kidera is a very talented artist, but also a great teacher. She has taught classes at the Howard County Recreation and Parks for many years. Brenda offers a variety of classes from watercolor, oils, and acrylics. She is knowledgeable, prepared, and always positive and encouraging. It is a pleasure to take her classes.

Janet Freeman

Karen Schuster

Ellen Millhollen

Shelley Van Hagen-Jamar

Patricia Jeffs

Janet Klingaman

Barbara Bestman

Trish Bright

Carolyn Troy

Jeanine Kline

Lisa Cuzzos

Letter of recommendation on the Nomination of Brenda Kidera for the Howie Award:

Brenda Kidera is a very talented and remarkable artist, with many accomplishments in watercolor, oil and acrylics. It is remarkable that she finds the time to teach her many studio classes. She is a wonderful teacher, always prepared and knowledgeable on the many aspects of the creative process. In addition, Brenda helps her students develop their own artistic vision. She encourages watercolor students to develop their skill set further by joining the Baltimore Watercolor Society as associate and signature members.

Brenda promotes a welcoming and encouraging atmosphere in her classes. Her students feel comfortable, building their skills and confidence in a friendly environment. Brenda is truly special, a one of a kind teacher!

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Davis

Janice L. M...

Charlene Roelcke

Susan Frankel

Christel Nickels

Jean B. Dicitl

Dana C. Kleinsterker

Kam Sullivan

Susan Donoghue

Juanita L. Sweadner

Gaye Holcomb

Marie Robinson

ART PREVIEW

Artist couple will have chance to shine at show

Woodbine residents are selected to be part of Bethesda Row Arts Festival

BY KATIE V. JONES
kjones@baltsun.com

She paints. He makes things out of metal.

At their home in Woodbine, Ed and Brenda Kidera each have their own studio — hers is in the house, while his is in a building he built himself a short distance from the house.

"From the beginning, we've always worked at home," Brenda said. "It's nice."

While they both work at home, they don't work together.

"We both do very different things," Ed said. "We don't really collaborate on anything."

"We tend to meet for lunch," Brenda added.

The artists will be doing a show together as both Brenda and Ed were selected to be part of the Bethesda Row Arts Festival on Oct. 14 and 15. They are the only artists from Maryland of the 190 selected to be in the show.

"It is high-end art," said Brenda, who attended the show with a friend five years ago. "I saw a lot of artists I knew."

"It's pretty competitive," Ed said, adding thousands of artists apply for entry to the show.

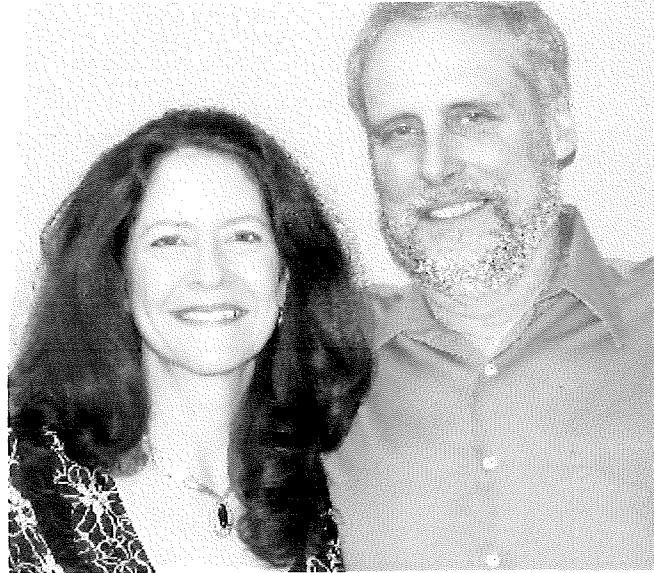
The Kideras are no strangers to art shows. Both travel to numerous shows on their own, and occasionally, together. Their two daughters, now adults, were raised at art shows, Brenda joked.

"We do different types of shows," Ed explained. "Some are only crafts, some are fine arts, some art. Bethesda is a mix of fine art and fine crafts."

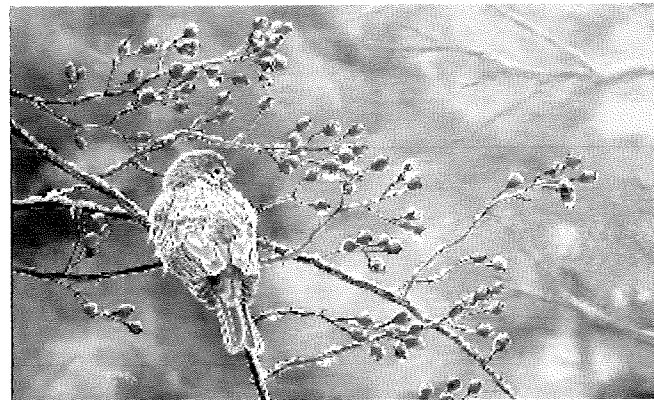
While Brenda's paintings — whether in oil, water or acrylics — are typically classified as fine art, Ed's metal pieces are harder to classify. Some shows see his metal bells and air ships as crafts, other as metal fine art.

Ed tends to travel more and further for shows, going to the Mid-West as well as the East Coast. Brenda does shows closer to home. She also teaches painting classes.

When they are able to do a show together, they request booths next to each other. They pack up their vans with their work, tables, tents — whatever they need to create their booths at a show. Some



Brenda and Ed Kidera



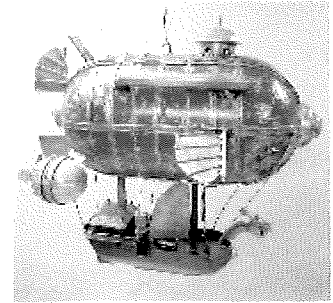
Brenda Kidera, "Winter Visitor," oil

shows require them to set up at 3:30 a.m.

"It's a lot of work," Brenda admitted. At the end of the day on weekend events, they just close their tent flaps.

"You hope nothing happens," Ed said. "Both of us have stuff that you can't put in a pocket and walk away with."

Both also have pieces in local galleries,



COURTESY PHOTO

Ed Kidera, "Air Ship"

including HorseSpirit Arts Gallery on Main Street in historic Ellicott City, where each had pieces affected by the flood in July 2016.

"Her use of light and detail is just magnificent," said Robin Holliday, owner of HorseSpirit. "People just love her work. She has a following here."

Ed's pieces, Holliday said, reflect his background in engineering with their moving parts.

"He is just so creative," Holliday said. "I can't believe what he comes up with."

Brenda finds inspiration for her work looking out her studio's windows or walking through the gardens she and Ed created — one thing they do together.

"We're both avid gardeners," Brenda said, though not of vegetables.

"We're just terrible at growing anything to eat," Ed said. "We have lots of flowers and plants."

While Brenda has no intention of ever retiring, Ed realizes he may not always be able to physically do his work.

"When I started making pieces, I said that after I made 10,000 pieces that I would quit," he said. "I have made 8,150 and I started in 1991."

For now, both plan to continue working from their home studios in Woodbine.

"It is wonderful to know someone else appreciates your work," Ed said. "I like making the stuff."

"There are pieces I hold on to a long, long time," Brenda admitted. "But I'll basically sell anything unless the girls are in it. It's a living."

The Bethesda Row Arts Festival will take place Oct. 14-15, at Woodmont and Bethesda avenues, Elm Street and Bethesda Lane. Admission is free.