Tulip Time 2019 Poster Artist Winner Announced

HOLLAND, Mich., **February 7, 2019** – Tulip Time® Festival (www.tuliptime.com) together with the Holland Area Arts Council, is pleased to announce Carolyn Stich and her painting, "Enduring Delft" as the winner of the 2019 Tulip Time Festival Poster Competition.

The announcement was made Thursday evening at the First Bloom event held at Evergreen Commons. Hundreds of festival sponsors, community partners, and art enthusiasts attended the event where the evening began with a reception honoring the Top 20 artists and their artwork.

Each year a work of art is selected for the official Tulip Time Festival poster. This year, 44 artists from the region submitted a total of 75 works for this juried competition. This year's submissions were reviewed by Kristin Jass Armstrong, Executive Director of the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, who designated the Top 20 from which the winning piece was selected.

This year's winning artist, Carolyn Stich, is an artist and photographer in Holland, Michigan. Carolyn has illustrated 10 children's books as well as filling a portfolio full of commissioned work for various businesses throughout West Michigan over the past 20+ years. Her artwork and photographs appear in many publications promoting the beauty of the Holland area.

Carolyn is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. She studied commercial art and graphic design at Meremac Community College in St. Louis and continued her studies at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. In 1993, she and her husband moved to Holland, Michigan. Carolyn has owned a gallery/studio in downtown Holland for 12 years. Carolyn is a previous Art In Bloom winner, when in 2015 her piece "Joy of Spring" was selected as the winning poster artwork.

 "I created "Enduring Delft" as a celebration of Holland, Michigan," stated Carolyn. "The elegant simplicity of Delftware is a beautiful staple of Dutch heritage. The combination of vivid colors and classic patterns is an expression of the rich tradition and lively spirit found here."

"Enduring Delft," and the other Top 20 original works, will be on display at the Holland Area Arts Council from May 4 through May 12, 2019. The 19 remaining works will compete for the Viewers' Choice Awards. The top three pieces with the most votes will win cash prizes. The community and all visitors are invited to participate by casting their vote for their favorite artwork. The winners of the Viewers' Choice Awards will be announced on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 10a via Facebook Live.

"Enduring Delft" will be featured on posters, giclee prints, and other festival merchandise beginning February 8 at the Tulip Time office, and soon after on the Tulip Time website and at area galleries and shops.

Previous winners of the Art In Bloom poster competition include:

2011   Beth Charles – "Drama Queens"
2012   Brittany Strabbing – "Beautiful Dream"
2013   Maggie Schultz – "Clothed in Splendor"
2014   Karin Nelson – "Resilience"
2015   Carolyn Stich – "Joy of Spring"
2016   Alla Dickson – "Spectacle"
2017   Michele Gort – "Playful Time"
2018   Cindy Awrey – "Together"

We thank our presenting partner Alpenrose Restaurant & Catering for their continued support of the Art In Bloom program. We also recognize our supporting partners At Your Service Valet, Eastern Floral, Elisabeth Marie Photography & Design, Evergreen Commons, Gill Staffing, Lighthouse Group, Next Creative Co. and West Michigan Woman Magazine, for their commitment to community through their support of Tulip Time.

The Tulip Time Preview is now available offering highlights of the 2019 program. Previews can be viewed online or you can request a copy at www.tuliptime.com/join. Full festival details will be available in the Spring Festival Guide published in March.

Join the dance as we paint the town orange in celebration of Dutch Culture, Community and Tulips at the 90th Tulip Time Festival May 4 – 12, 2019.

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