Three Arts of Bear Valley Photographers Recognized at Mother Lode Art Show

ARNOLD, Calif. — Three members of Arts of Bear Valley (AOBV) received a total of five photography awards at the Mother Lode Art Association's 71st Annual Art Show & Sale, held October 2–4, 2026, at the Sonora Elks Lodge.

Arnold photographer Paul Judy received first place in photography for *Standing Alone*, while fellow AOBV member George Dondero earned second place for *Salt Point*. Jan Alcalde received an honorable mention for *Mesa Verde Yucca*. Judy also received two honorable mentions for *The Gathering Veil* and *Between the Storms*.



Paul Judy received first place in photography for Standing Alone at the Mother Lode Art Association's 71st Annual Art Show & Sale.

Judy is a fine art landscape photographer whose work focuses on quiet landscapes, atmospheric conditions, and the abstract patterns found in nature. His first-place image, *Standing Alone*, depicts a solitary pine tree in a fire-scarred forest, conveying a sense of solitude and resilience.

Dondero's award-winning photograph, *Salt Point*, explores the intricate patterns and textures found in nature. Delicate dried plant stems contrast with rugged, dark stone accented by vibrant orange lichen. The intimate composition transforms an ordinary detail of the coastal landscape into a striking study of color, line, and texture.



George Dondero received second place in photography for Salt Point, an intimate landscape photograph highlighting the contrasting colors and textures of dried vegetation and lichen-covered rock.

Alcalde's photograph, *Mesa Verde Yucca*, reveals the unexpected artistry found in nature. The image contrasts the strong, angular lines of green yucca leaves with delicate, curling white fibers against a dramatic black background. The resulting composition transforms a familiar desert plant into an elegant, almost abstract study of shape, line, and texture.



Jan Alcalde received an honorable mention for Mesa Verde Yucca, a striking botanical photograph highlighting the graceful lines, delicate curves, and intricate details of a desert yucca.

Arts of Bear Valley is a local association devoted to developing and promoting the visual arts along the Upper Highway 4 corridor in Calaveras and Alpine counties. Through exhibitions, educational opportunities, and community programs, the organization supports local artists and encourages appreciation of the visual arts.

For more information about Arts of Bear Valley, visit **www.aobv.org**.