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PHOTOS: https://heard.org/fair2021/best_of_show/best-of-show-award-winners/

EVENT LINK: <https://heard.org/fair2021/>

MEDIA AVAIL: **Live:** Friday, March 5 to Sunday, March 7, 2021, Juried Competition Show & Sale (Heard Museum)

Interviews: Anna Flynn, Fair Chair; participating artists by request (virtual or in person)

**PANDEMIC-THEMED SOFT SCULPTURE FIGURE NAMED “BEST OF SHOW”
AT THE HEARD MUSEUM GUILD INDIAN FAIR & MARKET**
“Wakitantanka(Strong-Willed) Pandemic Survivalist” takes top prize among 200+ submissions

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 4, 2021) – Juanita Growing Thunder Fogarty’s (Assiniboine/Sioux) “Wakitantanka (Strong-Willed) Pandemic Survivalist” was awarded “Best of Show” in the 2021 Juried Competition at the Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market.

Fogarty states, “Wakitantanka (Strong-Willed) Pandemic Survivalist’ is a soft sculptured figure doll of a Sioux woman wearing a penny dress, signifying how she lives in the modern world and her cultural world in balance. She stands on a beaded image of the COVID-19 virus, with surrounding worded pandemics that our people have survived. She wears a micro beaded floral face mask for safety. She carries sage and cedar, our natural medicine, which is also depicted on her wrap.”

On Thursday, March 4, 2021, the Heard Museum Guild announced the awards for the 63rd Annual Indian Fair & Market’s Juried Competition via video to members. Award winners will share in a pool of more than \$75,000 in prize money. The three-day event is anchored by an all-new website that features the art, website links, and social media presence of more than 300 American Indian and Canadian First Nations artists from more than 75

tribes.

More than 200 Best of Show submissions from 100 Fair artists will be available for sale online and in person at the Heard Museum's Steele Auditorium. Additionally, seven world-renowned artists will be at the Heard Museum Shop from Friday to Sunday: Victoria Adams (Southern Cheyenne/Arapaho of Oklahoma), Darryl Dean and Rebecca Begay (Navajo), Edison Cummings (Navajo), Jesse Monongye (Navajo/Hopi), Tim BlueFlint Ramel (Bad River Chippewa/Comanche) and Denise Wallace (Chugach Sugpiaq).

A full list of awards including "Best of Class" can be found here: https://heard.org/fair2021/best_of_show/best-of-show-award-winners/

Photo: Best of Show

VII Diverse Art Forms

Juanita Growing Thunder Fogarty

Assiniboine/Sioux

"Wakitantanka (Strong-Willed) Pandemic Survivalist"

Photo: Heard Museum, Craig Smith

About the Heard

Since its founding in 1929, the Heard Museum, a private nonprofit organization, has grown in size and stature to become recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, world-class exhibitions, educational programming and unmatched festivals. Dedicated to the advancement of American Indian art, the Heard successfully presents the stories of American Indian people from a first-person perspective, as well as exhibitions that showcase the beauty and vitality of traditional and contemporary art. The Heard Museum is supported, in part, by the generosity of Heard Museum members and donors, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture. In association with the Smithsonian, the Heard Museum is part of a select group of museums and cultural, educational and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

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