

And the award goes to ...

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SOLO Awards

One of the most-talked-about sections of the show was SOLO, which showcased more than 250 works from trendsetting, emerging artists. The diverse collection of works ranged from painting and sculpture to photography and mixed-media presentations, and the fresh crop of artists inspired many with their energy and passion.

SOLO received steady traffic throughout the show as publishers and galleries sought out new talent for their businesses. A show-sponsored panel of judges also made many laps around the SOLO area, searching for three deserving winners of the SOLO prizes in the categories of Painting, Mixed Media, and Sculpture.

The jury came back with exciting results and honored Joshua Smith as Best SOLO Painter; Nina Sampaleanu as Best Mixed-Media Artist; and Camie Geary-Martin as Best Sculpture/3-D Artist.

For Geary-Martin, the award was icing on the cake of an exceptional show. "As an emerging artist, going to New York is an exciting goal but can be quite intimidating!" she says. "Artexpo New York provided an excellent opportunity for me to introduce my work to a broad audience. The Artexpo staff was very cheerful and helpful at move-in and most accommodating with the minor adjustments to my booth. I met other amazing artists, SOLO and beyond, who added breadth and depth to my experience. I received wonderful responses to my work, sold some of my sculptures, and made connections with several galleries. Being honored by the award for [SOLO] Sculpture/3D was a real bonus! I definitely exceeded my expectations."

Eric Smith, show director and member of the judges panel, couldn't agree more. "Each of the SOLO award winners were unique in their own way," he says. "The work displayed was saleable, well-presented and stood out among the rest. We are always proud of the fresh and unique works presented in SOLO, and this year's winners are truly deserving."