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Fountain Street Church ArtPrize Venue Winners Announced

Two \$500 awards were determined by an independent juror reviewing the Fountain Street Church (FSC) ArtPrize exhibition. The Church is one of few ArtPrize venues awarding cash prizes to recognize exceptional artwork.

The Art Committee engaged George Bayard III, Executive Director of the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archive, to serve as an independent juror to select recipients of the two awards:

“black and white” by Paul Marquardt received the FSC Social Action Committee award.

“We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants” by Julie Torres received the FSC Art Committee award.

Mr. Bayard offered these comments: “It is pleasing to see artists doing work inspired by social movements rather than merely decorative art. Passion in art comes from passion in life. Emotions run high in the face of social issues. It is heartening to see art that relates to the issues we have confronted as a society, especially in the last several years. Life challenges us to become activists and this exhibition does as well. Sometimes the most simple and direct expression is the best way to make a point. “black and white” literally speaks to us. Ruth Bader Ginsberg fought for women’s rights and “We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants” clearly and powerfully reflects that struggle.”

Fountain Street Church is exhibiting work selected by its volunteer Art Committee. Each work addresses an aspect of the venue theme, *Art to Change the World*. This is the ninth year the venue has selected art addressing social justice issues including the politics of war and issues of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, social justice, and environmental stewardship. The exhibition includes seventeen works by artists from five countries and seven states in the U.S.A.

Fountain Street’s venue is open to the public daily from noon to 6:00 p.m. September 16th through October 3rd. For more information, see <https://www.fountainstreet.org/>.

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