

About the 2026 Judges

of U.S. Rep. Chris Smith's 2026 NJ Fourth Congressional District Art Competition

Rich Thompson is a self-taught artist, who has always been drawn to American history and specifically



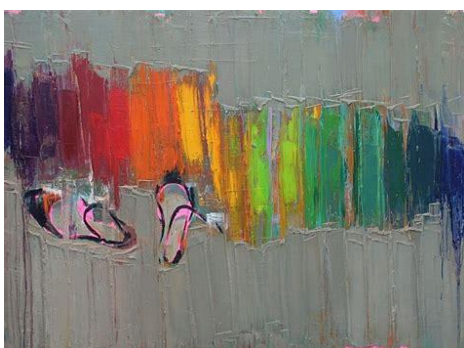
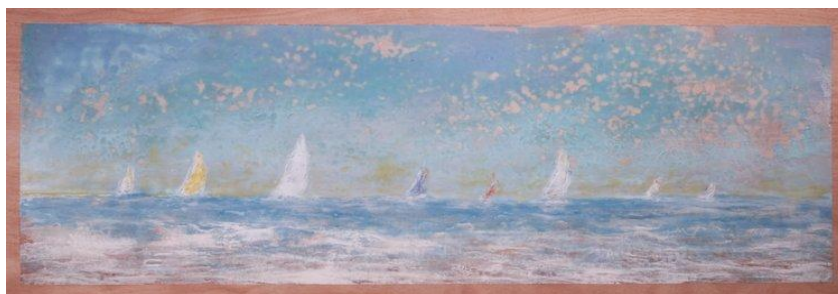
Abraham Lincoln. Rich's work was on display and won visitors' choice at the Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia during Lincoln's 200th birthday celebration. Currently, Rich has pieces in the Lincoln Collection at the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, the Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville, Kentucky, and the Lincoln Library and Museum in Harrogate, Tennessee, as well as two pieces hanging at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. He has been published in the Civil War Preservation Trust magazine, *Hallowed Ground*, as well as had a painting used in the playbill at Ford's Theatre's production of "Field Trip." Rich formerly resided in Mercer Co., N.J. (Shown: "Mirth & Sadness, Smiles & Tears").

<http://www.onecountryonedestiny.com/>

Jim Inzero earned his Fine Art Degree from the Maryland

Institute College of Art. Jim, who lives on the Metedeconk River, in New Jersey uses encaustic technique to construct his pieces. He has established himself as one of the Jersey Shore's leading contemporary artists. Jim reflects his lifelong attraction to the shore and its surroundings in every bit of his work. The movement and serenity in his work conveys the gratitude and bounty expressed by the ocean environment. Jim is constantly inspired by the connection he feels to the people around him, which allows for a unique opportunity to express energy and emotions in a way that ultimately will always begin and end at the horizon—the horizon in which he feels represents the meeting place for the highs and lows of life. Jim resides in Ocean Co., N.J. (Shown: Seascape. Encaustic on panel)

<http://jiminzero.com/>



Debbie Jencsik is an artist

whose work is an integration of three manifestations: imagination, expression and articulation. The visual language that results is in direct proportion to the measure of perception and discernible apprehension toward a particular piece. Allowing for freedom to take risks, an individual palette knife is used to wield Debbie's way toward a fluent outcome. The developmental process of each painting is a matter of exploration and intuitive explosion over rigid artistic technicality and restraint. Through this process, an inimitable style emerges. The finished work is a visual vocabulary declaring radiant truths. The

complexion of each piece celebrates imperfections, producing prominence and character. She works unconventionally, without the use of solvents, using liberal amounts of oil paint, indulgent in oily mediums. Rich mixtures of robust portions of paint resemble the likes of some exotic dessert. Debbie resides in Ocean County, N.J. (Shown: Untitled. Oil on canvas)

<https://www.deborahjencsik.com/>