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## Images 2014 pays tribute to photographers from state and beyond

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David LaChapelle's "Gas 76" photograph will be featured in a one-artist show, as part of "Images 2014" at the Fairfield Museum and History Center. Photo: Contributed Photo



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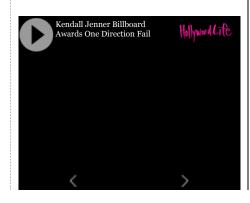
**More Information** If you go Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach

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To "recognize, appreciate and celebrate" photographers from Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

That's the concept for Images 2014, the sixth annual juried photography exhibition at the Fairfield Museum and History Center. In addition to the competition, a solo show in honor of renowned photographer David LaChapelle, who spent part of his youth in Fairfield, is included.

Meri Erickson, a museum spokeswoman, said the competition also is aimed at encouraging and championing photography throughout the region. And the museum is having enormous success doing so.



Road. Open daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission \$5; \$3 students, seniors. Free on Mondays and Tuesdays. 203-259-1598. www.fairfieldhistory.org.

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"It was the largest group of entries to date ... a fantastic turnout," she said.

From the more than 900 entries submitted, about 90 winners and nearly 20 honorable mention awards have been announced. The show will be on view through Sunday, June 22.

The competition was open to professionals, serious amateurs and students whose work was judged in several categories: Landscape, Portrait, Architecture, Nature and Abstract, as well as a new category, Iconic Fairfield, in honor of the town's 375th anniversary.

Curator Andrea Renner explained that Images is an umbrella for three distinct shows within the museum. One entire gallery is devoted to Iconic Fairfield, while another is devoted to other contest winners. La Chapelle's work is in a third.

"Then we ran out of wall space," Renner said, adding that there were so many quality pieces submitted that the museum decided to give honorable mention awards. As part of the celebration, 18 photographs have been selected for a special exhibition at First Niagara's Fairfield bank branches.

Images 2014 Professional/Serious Amateur category Grand Prize winner is Andrew Smith, of Fairfield. He will be honored with a 10-day exhibition at Southport Galleries, in Fairfield. Student Grand Prize winner Morgan Macey, of Wilton, will receive a professional portfolio review by juror Philip Trager.

According to LaChapelle's biography, his career took off -- a age 17 -- after working for Andy Warhol at Interview Magazine. He has gone on to work in numerous disciplines including fashion, commercial, advertising, film and fine art photography. LaChapelle's photographs have been featured on the covers and pages of Italian Vogue, French Vogue, Vanity Fair, GQ and Rolling Stone, and featured at galleries and museums from New York to Paris to Tel Aviv.

The museum said: "LaChapelle (51) credits the Connecticut Public School system's art programs for fostering his artistic talents. His work, which often combines a unique hyperrealistic aesthetic while providing a profound social message,

often draws inspiration from historical references and uses exaggerated scale and color pallets."

Judges for Images 2014, in addition to Trager, were Helen Klisser During, director of visual arts at the Westport Arts Center; Jordan Schaps, former photo director for New York magazine; and Lisa Larson-Walker, photo editor at Slate Magazine.

For a list of winners, visit www.fairfieldhistory.org.

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If you go

Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5; \$3 for students and seniors. Admission on Mondays and Tuesdays is free. 203-259-1598. www.fairfieldhistory.org.



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