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Making Better

Better

When It **Hurts to** Draw

Drawings From the

River School





Seated Woman



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Although it was difficult to narrow down our competition entries to just 27 finalists, we finally chose the following artists to represent the quality and variety of draftsmanship submitted in 2005.

The Passage

by Richard Brown, 2005, graphile, 12 x 79. At artwork this article collection the artist unless otherwise indicates.

Carla Sanchez

Antonia Franck
Madelyn Raska
Leah F. Waichulis
Stave Femmer
Deborah Feller
Arlene Steinberg
Gordon MacDonald
Mikel Olazabal

Joel Carson Jones Eugene R. Coles Gerry Wubben

Paul Coher Jr.

Elizabeth D. Nehls

Dustin van Wechel

Lon Nabe

Suzy Schultz



Carolina Wren

by Deborah L. Friedman, 2004, colored pencil. 9% x 10%. Collection Ann Farrington.

Deborah L. Friedman

Deborah L. Friedman's drawings exude a sense of calm mastery. "My goal," says Friedman, "is to design a clean, spare composition—paring down unnecessary elements to allow the personality of the subject to take center stage." Birds largely occupy that center stage. "In 1989 my husband and I bought our first home and hung up some birdfeeders we had received as housewarming gifts. I hadn't known much about birds before this, but they soon fascinated me with their wide-ranging appearances, songs, and personalities. I became captivated by their beauty and mystery."

Enthralled by the wildlife she found in her backyard in Wellesley, Massachusetts, Friedman set out to translate that inspiration onto paper. In the process, she set several rules for herself—one of which is that she can only draw birds that she can closely observe in real life. "If I happen to find a dead bird in my yard," says Friedman, "I'll keep it in a freezer until I'm ready to draw."

For more information, visit www.dthiedman.com.