

## **Juror's Statement**

I would like to begin my comments by saying how impressed I was not only with the overall strength of the work entered in this exhibition, but with the range of media and styles.

As a curator I am used to selecting works for a specific exhibition idea. A work that doesn't work with one exhibition may be an excellent choice for a different exhibition later on. Juried exhibitions can be more difficult for several reasons. First, it is a one-time decision. Second, the juror can only select from the works that were submitted. And finally, the juror is for good or ill making decisions based only on looking at the work without knowledge of the artist or the artist's intentions. Having said that, I would like to offer some explanation of my process when serving as a juror. First, I like to spend some time looking at the artworks entered in the exhibition to get a feel for the range of works. Second, I look at sub-groups if there are any. After doing this I can begin selecting works that I would like to see included. In selecting works I consider technique, presentation and concept. I like well crafted works. This will vary according to media or style, but the very least, the craftsmanship shouldn't call attention to itself in a negative way: uneven varnish on a painting, a loose thread on a textile work or unintentional smearing on a drawing. Presentation should again be appropriate to the media and concept. It should support the overall work and not detract. Presentation can hurt a work of art by being too much; overly elaborate frames or very large signatures as easily as being not quite enough, poorly cut mats or scratched glass.

Finally there is concept; to me this is very important and very difficult. But I enjoy looking at works of where the artist has an idea that he or she is passionate about. This can be difficult to accomplish while in college where one is experimenting in a range of processes and learning about a variety of styles. Many artists find it difficult to select the media and the concept that one is going to focus on for the foreseeable future. Difficult, but I saw many works in this exhibition that possessed both of these elements. One last comment on jurying, and that is that as one selects the works for inclusion in the exhibition there always comes a point where one has to consider the space. Do I include a few more works that have some merit or do I try to leave a little bit of room so that the works I have already selected have a little bit of "breathing space" that makes for a better looking exhibition.

In the end I would like to reiterate what I said at the beginning. There was a wonderful range of media and styles entered. To those of you whose works were accepted, my congratulations. To those whose work was not included in this exhibition I hope you will take it not as a rejection but as a challenge to prove me wrong in your future work.

Frank E. Thomson, Curator  
Asheville Art Museum