

Juror statement
Trudi Van Dyke
FCCA
November 2022
Blues Overall

“I believe in intuition and inspiration...at times I feel certain that I am right while not knowing the reason...” Albert Einstein

Artists always want to know what it is about their work that gains them acceptance into a juried exhibition. It's a question with many different answers. After the basics that are easy to vocalize, good composition, mastery of the medium, color balance and presentation it becomes more difficult to explain subjectivity. I like to consider whether a work is appropriate to the theme. I was somewhat disappointed to find the majority of submissions dependent on the color palette blue without consideration of other directions in interpretations. What about feeling blue? Singing the blues? I encourage artists to find ways to create outside the expected when given the opportunity of broad themes.

I approach the challenge of jurying with several parameters in mind. I want to choose a show that will hang together in the physical space of the gallery and concurrently in the emotional space of the viewer. I look for a flow from piece to piece that will allow the viewer to focus on works individually and yet leave the gallery with a sense of having viewed an exhibition of works rather than solo pieces. This can be challenging with a broad theme like the Blues Overall. Additionally, the work must be accurately represented in submitted images. Occasionally some work of high caliber will be eliminated as my concept of the show develops as I select the strongest pieces to anchor the show.

I strongly believe that any medium and any subject matter can be presented with a strong artist's voice that makes it appealing. I make a

conscious effort not to be drawn to personal favorites in subject matter or color palette. (Full disclosure- blue is my go to color.)

Let's look at the award winners.

Best in Show- Mary Magneson, Flight, textile 26 x 29

Second place-Christine Long, California Hibiscus; monoprint; 18 x 18

Third place-Lynette Reed, Sky Lilies, Fiber, 36 x 15 x 15

Honorable Mention-Jennifer Gavin- Kozo Ocean, pulp, fiber 67 x 64 x 60

Honorable Mention- Marcia Chaves, Waiting for Ian, Oil 20 x 20

Honorable Mention-Penny A. Parrish, Redbud Skyburst, photo 24 x 16

The choices were hard, the space limited. Each of us is drawn to personal favorites in theme and media. It's difficult to single out awards, and even more difficult to rank them. Don't put too much stock in my choices, find your own favorites.

It is a wonderful emotional high to view an exhibition where you have personally been drawn to each piece and I appreciate the opportunity to jury this exhibition. To all who submitted, whether you have been chosen or not, I encourage you to continue your work and wish you the best in pursuit of your art.

Trudi Van Dyke

Independent Fine Art Curator