

NSA 37th National Online Juried Show

Juror's Statement - Jeffrey McGee

When judging work for an online exhibition, one must consider various aspects of each piece. Most of those characteristics would also be considered for an on-site show (composition, content, color choices, etc.) while others exist only in the digital realm. Presentation matters in both cases, but with an online show, installing the work does not include hammers, nails, and wall space. In that regard, artists in the contemporary world must document their work in a way that best describes it on a screen. This is particularly challenging for 3-D works, but also applies to drawing, painting, photography, etc. It is with this reality in mind that I approached these applications for inclusion.

As an educator of 20 years, I am also keenly aware of the concept of execution vs. skill. I am looking for works that have strong foundations in the elements of art and principles of design first, stimulating concepts second, and finally how the material(s) are applied with an artists' skill. I am personally drawn to works that strike a balance displaying the artist's hand within the formation of an interesting image. This may be the most challenging feature in the act of creation. Finding one's unique voice while learning from those that came before us is no simple task, and one that is distinctive to the arts. This pursuit reflects the human condition on many levels. It shows us who are as individuals within a society that does not always acknowledge the merits of creative interests while subconsciously taking advantage of the efforts of artists and designers.

I am grateful for the National Society of Artists in providing me the opportunity to participate in this show and I hope you all enjoy the show as much as I enjoyed jurying it.

Jeffrey McGee

Best in Show Award

- This piece shows a beautiful sense of layering with a subtly abstract design. The use of slightly muted, yet energized colors was the first thing I noticed. As I dug deeper, the layers of texture and depth made this work the standout of the set.



1st Place

- The use of warm colors and soft edges gives this work a sense of realism. It gives me a sense of both atmosphere and nostalgia. A humid day at the creek with buzzing insects and the occasional jumping fish.



2nd Place Award

- The energy of brushstrokes in this work creates an interesting texture with a clever application of atmospheric perspective. The mild abstraction gives the work a sense of life and movement while referencing a familiar landscape.



3rd Place Award

- When it comes to watercolor as a medium, I am always looking for interesting use of the negative space as identified by the white of the paper. This work's high contrast of dark and light, flat and textured, and intentionally off-balance composition provides an opportunity to build your own narrative as you engage with the work.



Honorable Mention

- Chiaroscuro!!! The use of light and dark to build this image and imply a narrative was very successfully applied. I appreciated the soft focus providing a sense of memory.



Honorable Mention 2

- This piece popped immediately as the most successful pure abstraction of the applications. Personally, I interpreted it as many things and nothing all at the same time. A very intriguing image.



Gay & Philip G. Paratore Memorial Award

- Colored pencil might be the most overlooked fine art material. I sincerely appreciated the use of layered color, textures, and lighting that went into this piece.

