

It has been an honor serving as the juror for the 2021 JJC Student Exhibition. I would like to thank each of you for your dedication to your work, and for sharing it through this exhibition.

The selection process was a difficult one. With 179 works submitted, there was a lot to consider. Unfortunately there were submissions I could not accept because of poor photography or incomplete submission information. For instance, a few submissions neglected to include a date, which would verify that it was completed in the last two years.

After examining all of the artwork through multiple passes, I made final decisions based primarily on technical aptitude with your medium, application of fundamental principles of art and design, and creative problem solving. Other issues that affected acceptance included craft and image quality. In some instances the work was good, but the photo was too dark or blurry or pixelated, and would not hold up in an online exhibition.

The first, second, and third place distinctions were especially difficult; there were around two dozen pieces I wanted to put in the spotlight. To narrow this down, I tried to represent work from a variety of mediums. I also wanted to showcase artists who had multiple pieces that impressed me. Additionally, I appreciated when the artwork demonstrated creativity through novel solutions to a problem.

Cheri Tanamal's work impressed me because of their ability to tell a story, and to present me with a new perspective. The sculptural piece, "If Angels are the Image of God, then I Fear God", showed me a uniquely creepy creature, somehow simultaneously soft and sharp, friendly and threatening, digital and analog. Then I read the title and was led to question what I was looking at all over again.

Grace Sniegowski demonstrated exquisite craft and attention to detail in all submissions. Ultimately it was the "European Currency" designs that won me over for the unity of design across six panels for three bills, front and back, each with intricately layered type and image to distinguish it and associate it with a European location.

First place was awarded to Christopher Sandoval. I was impressed with the use of color and pattern to illustrate a story. Each time I revisit the drawing, "Mind of an Artist", I find a new level of detail, gaining new insight into the story. Our patience as an audience is rewarded with more and more information. Navigating these drawings are like trying to find a resting place in an endlessly repeating fractal pattern. You keep looking closer, and the next level of detail keeps coming. I'm sure there are narratives in this drawing that I have not yet discovered.

Congratulations to everybody and keep up the good work!

Christopher T Wood