

JUROR'S STATEMENT

During these unusual times there is nothing more fulfilling than experiencing a work of art in person. Our screen time has come to dominate our lives,

so the opportunity to be with your work in person has been a joy for me. I want to thank Professor Suzanne Gorgas for the invitation for organizing the jurying tasks so well. During the process, works of art attract my attention if they have a clear focus, evident skills, and a strong visual presence. Content that engages me is not necessarily the same subject that might draw in someone else. However, while some criteria can't be observed and measured with pure objectivity, focus, competence, and great composition present themselves readily and therefore must be evident.

When viewing so many artworks at one time, themes emerge. Specifically, themes of time, place and self all were present throughout the submissions. Honoring the assignments given to you by your faculty was my primary concern. Seeing how you made the assignments your own became the breakthrough moment for me and the jurying choices that I made. The entries that stood out the most to me hovered between the assignment and your interpretation or were decidedly expressive in their use of self, material, or technique. Sometimes a work of art can just be about being a work of art in itself. Those are the "wow!" moments that I found throughout the exhibition. Ultimately when experiencing a work of art, it is the artist's voice that is projected through the object that elevates the assignment to a work of art.

Regarding the award winners, to my eye went above and beyond all expectations and created unique visual experiences. First place "**Mi Vida Urbana, Evelyn**" by **Jorge Guzman** went there by creating a unique sculptural form that upon reflection reads as a self-portrait that not only functions as a work of art but also an experience within itself. Second place "**Unease**" by **Matthew Jones-White** breaks the traditional expectations and format of painting and creates an organically liquid moment in time. Third place "**Honey Bee**" by **Jasmine Kasper** brings a hardcore commitment and dedication to technique that again elevates the assignment to a unique experience in entomology.

Many other works struck me and left me feeling inspired and privileged to be working in the arts. As with any juried exhibition, the final selection is a comparative affair, with a cut-off further determined by space. Life as a studio artist can be insular, and I truly want to thank all the artists for their courage to submit their artwork for consideration. This time is yours to reflect upon your experiences in the times that we are living in now. Let your art making be the conduit to voice all of your experiences and skills moving forward.

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