

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

### NOTES ON THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS FOR ARTISTS AND ADJUDICATORS

Since visual art is visual communication, your instincts will be alert to which works communicate to you. Note this, and then inquire how much this communication has to do with the work and how much has to do with your personal vision. If you are a single adjudicator, this is the most challenging aspect of your job!

The process of adjudicating works of art is much like the process of teaching art – each adjudicator, as each educator, brings to this process his/her own experience and bias. Whether we admit to a bias or not, this is simply a human trait. In order to fully address each work you are presented with, begin by addressing your own position, recognizing and laying aside your personal bias.

Many adjudicators are artists who have spent many years developing a personal vision. They also have, through the study of the history of visual art (visual communication), acquired an aesthetic judgment. *Both personal and historical visions are skills, which serve the adjudication process!*

In approaching adjudication, both the heart and the mind work together. It matters little from which point you begin. The marriage of the two can create an equitable decision.

Technically, works are assessed on their demonstration of technical skill, adept manipulation of the media and of the elements of design (***drawing, color, light, space, composition***). Note in which pieces these skills and elements work together to create a strong communication. These are the works to keep in mind in the final analysis.

It is not necessarily the mastery of skills that is the mark of excellence in a work of art. It is essential to keep a balanced eye – one, which considers skill as a vehicle towards expression, and not the expression itself. Keep an eye open for what may at first appear simple or naïve, but may contain the heart of what matters – communication.

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Each artist who has exhibited and joined the critique process furthers his/her development, recognizing that art is not only a product but also a process!

The adjudication process is a learning process. In working together, both artist and adjudicator expand their visual perception and their critical and creative skills.