

Christine Bailey
Juror's Statement for "The Color of Money" at FCCA
December 2008

First of all, I would like to thank the FCCA for inviting me to be the juror for this exhibition. I would also like to thank all the artists who submitted work. It was an honor to have been a part of this exhibition and I extend my best wishes for the future to the artists, to Carrol Morgan and to the FCCA.

Coming into this process—to jury a show whose title was "The Color of Money", I mistakenly expected to see a fairly narrow thematic interpretation in the entries I would view. When I finally saw the work to be juried, I was pleasantly surprised at the diversity of the submissions. This, of course, made narrowing down the selection and deciding on the finalists both an enjoyable and quite a difficult process.

In selecting the work for the exhibition, I tried to make the scope of the show as diverse as the submissions themselves, which covered a broad range of media, subject matter, thematic exploration, functionality and so forth. Some artists used actual money as their medium, incorporating it directly into their canvasses or constructing objects from it. Others explored paper money as itself a sort of canvas on which other pictures are printed. There were literal interpretations of "the color" of money, which focused on shades of green or metallics as well as projects that alluded to a more general feeling of blingy-ness. There were works depicting scenes of leisure activities, locations, commodities, and appearances that are broadly seen as the domain of the wealthy or as the imaginings of the not-yet wealthy. There were also works that pointed to the darker side of capital and of certain specific markets.

Ultimately, I suppose, one could argue that art, in all its various forms and subject matters, has always been a commodity closely linked with economics, markets and power. From that perspective, the variety of work submitted to this exhibition should come as no surprise. And perhaps that diversity points to the fact that the color of money, insofar as art is concerned, is some mysterious and often beautiful shade of gray.