

Juror's Statement

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For the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts

Art provides us with a reflection of ourselves and the world around us. Through the hands of artists, we are beckoned to stop and contemplate, to see something in a new light, to feel empathy and shared joy. Technical skills are important in the creation of a piece of art and are often the first thing we notice. But it is the artist's ability to go beyond his or her training, to reach into the psyche and release the creative spirit that becomes most notable when viewing works of art that transcend technical proficiency.

Finding that spark, that inherent element of real passion, is what I look for when jurying exhibitions. It is really not an easily definable element. Sometimes it seems obvious to all, sometimes it is my own personal reaction to a piece. Viewing the works in person is critical to finding this special element and I often find the search quite easy once I stand in front of the pieces.

Awards are challenging, though, and I always reach that step in the process with trepidation. I tend to want to hand out more awards, recognizing the spirit in many works, but must focus my attentions on those that excel my expectations for the exhibition as a whole.

Creating art is a complex activity, one that can be simultaneously cathartic, exuberant, exhausting and frustrating. I applaud all who allow the creative spirit to flow from their heads and hands. I am especially in awe of those who make the effort to put their work out there in front of audiences and the even more critical group of fellow artists.

Thank you to the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts - and especially to Carrol Morgan - for inviting me to jury this regional exhibition. It is my second time jurying for FCCA and it is a joy as always to see the work of so many talented artists. My best to you all in finding success and fulfillment in your work.