

Linda Kemp's Juror's Statement
August 25, 2017

As artists we take many risks in expressing ourselves as we paint our intimate thoughts, ideas and visual interpretations. We paint for ourselves and the best judgment of the success of the work might be answered by asking "Did I achieve my goal?", "Am I pleased with the colour and design?" or perhaps "What did I learn?".

However in a juried exhibition, the merit of a particular work is ranked by the Juror's standards and criteria. Frequently there is no feedback at all; simply notification that your painting was accepted or not. As a juror and as someone who entered many competitions and experienced both disappointment and elation at the results of the selection process, I would like to pass along a few comments.

You took a risk and made the effort to submit your personal work to the Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition and I congratulate you, whether your work was selected or not. I thank you for offering up your work for my consideration. I wish I could have included something from each candidate, but unfortunately I was set to the task of eliminating more than half of the work. The job was challenging when so many fine paintings were submitted. If your watercolor was not selected it does not mean that it isn't good. It is simply an indication that it did not fit - due to numbers restrictions or my personal vision for this exhibition. To satisfy the final count, the last cut of paintings was particularly difficult.

What was I looking for? Creativity, technical skill in painting, colour selection and design and most importantly, a unique vision.

General comments for improving your chances of having work accepted into future juried exhibitions:

Always make your best presentation!

Digital images must be clear and in focus. Check the white balance so that the color is correct. Square your camera to the image so as to eliminate distortion. Crop out any matting or background - show only the painting. In this exhibition I was most impressed by the overall quality of the images!

Submit more than one painting and you will more than double your chances as the juror compares each of your pieces.

Present a consistent style in your work. Show the juror one thing that you do well, rather than everything that you can do. While it is acceptable to submit different subjects, there must be a quality in the work that stands out as uniquely you.

Paint something different or paint it in a different way. Frequently a juror attempts to put together a show that presents a variety of painting styles and subject matter.

Paint for yourself. If it gets into a show - wonderful! If not - try again.

Respectfully,

Linda Kemp CSPWC, SCA, OSA

Author: Watercolor - Painting Outside the Lines and Simplifying Design and Color For Artists

www.lindakemp.com studio@lindakemp.com

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