

47th Annual Utah All-State High School Art Show (Feb-Mar 2019)

Group Responses

Painting:

It was a great honor for each of us to jury this show. Please realize what an honor it is to be accepted in this exhibition. It was very difficult to choose and we had to eliminate many good paintings—only 22% of those considered were able to remain.

We were impressed overall with the abilities to pursue their individual ideas. Many of the paintings show no fear of the canvas or paper and included powerful statements that pulled one from across the room. We were pleasantly surprised by the subtlety and sensitivity to the medium, academic drawing, color and design.

Presentation at times was jarring. We know it takes guts and gumption to spend money on materials and presentation but it is an investment in your journey as an artist. A large number of the pieces eliminated were due to the lack of consistency in the use of surface texture. Some of the great ideas fell apart because composition was ignored or not thought out.

It was exciting for us to see a great number of students who are serious about creating good, provoking art and paintings.

Drawing:

We would like to acknowledge that there was a great amount of competition within the many entries in this show. We want to encourage all students to pursue their artistic endeavors. We acknowledge that all students do not have the same opportunity and access. We encourage students to be vulnerable, to reach out to that which is different and explore understanding. We encourage them to pursue individual ideas and voice. Consider the capacity to communicate meaning that reflects your own thought process without fear.

Pieces accepted into the show exhibited a balance of individual voice, content, mastery of medium, formalistic design, and appropriate presentation.

We encourage teachers to expand world view and curiosity through exposure to contemporary and historical issues.

We applaud each of you for participating and sharing your drawings, and we are grateful to the art teachers and faculty for sharing their time and efforts with their students.

Digital and Photography:

It was difficult to choose which pieces got accepted but overall technical ability, presentation, concept, and narrative awareness were our biggest deciding factors. Technical skills especially mattered in still life, nature, and portrait pieces. A big recommendation we would give is for teachers to emphasize the importance of professional presentation in submitting your works (i.e. framing, matting, and print

quality). A thoughtful artist statement and even title could be the difference in whether a piece was chosen.

We were impressed with the caliber and quality of the work coming from this particular age group, many pieces exhibited college level abilities and expertise. We were all honored to jury this show and enjoyed looking at all the work that was submitted.

3D and Mixed Media:

We appreciated the playfulness and quiriness that a lot of pieces displayed as well as the sheer ambition of many of the works and many of the works were rooted in great concepts. However, art is not just concept; it is equal parts execution and ideas.

Some exceptional works were not included in the show because of presentation issues (bad frames, obvious glue jobs, cracked ceramics, poor joints, poorly rendered details etc.)

We were delighted by the quantity of entrants from ceramics. There were many traditional ceramic forms entered. For these, execution was particularly important. When making simple direct ceramic forms we encourage you to spend a lot of time thinking about scale, proportion, surface finish, and glaze work. These qualities differentiate good from excellent.

When making more sculptural forms, don't be afraid to push the boundaries further. The most successful of these works fully embraced their ideas and ran with it. It's ok to be weird, strange, and experimental, however the same rules of execution apply.

Art needs a brief, clear, and relevant artist statement. The more conceptual your work is, the more you need to take the viewer along with you and that happens in the artist statement. Sometimes the line for us between accepting and denying a work was the context provided (or not) by an artist statement.

Our note to students is keep going and don't fret if your work was not accepted. We had to eliminate 75% of the work, including many pieces we would have loved to see in the show.