

First of all, let me thank the museum staff. I was so impressed with how well things were organized and run. I was most impressed by the strength and stamina of the staff. If I tried to do what they did, I don't think I would survive a week on your museum staff.

It was very hard though. To cull so many works....going from almost 900 to about 200 was very difficult, especially after we got it down to 400 or so. Finally, we had to reject perfectly good works in all categories simply because there was not enough room in the show. I'm sure works were culled that will go on to win first prize in the next show entered.

.....I was very impressed with **concepts** and time after time found myself thinking, "I wish I would have done that." I paid special attention to technique. There were many participants who had wonderful ideas but hadn't yet had enough experience (sheer practice) with their tools to be the artists they eventually will be.

We tried our best, but I know we made mistakes. We tried to dampen our prejudices, but I'm sure works were juried out that should have been included. I felt bad about this, but then I remembered how often I've been juried out Judging could only **approach** fairness if all entries were the same medium, same size, same subject matter and pretty much the same style.

One of the problems I see with contemporary art is the seeking after novelty or visual sensationalism. I tried very hard to stifle that in myself as I viewed the works. For example, there were many fine traditional landscapes, some which got juried out, that were not **disturbing**, not **challenging**, not **troubling**, but were just lovely works to live with that will beautify homes and businesses.

I'm happy to report that scale played no part in our decisions. We paid careful attention to the small as well as the large entries. In fact, many large works were a bit over ambitious and the young artists would have been better off doing smaller things as they build skill.

I honestly feel the pain of those worthy talented serious artists who were rejected. May they triumph tomorrow.

William Whitaker
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