

2023 International Juried Exhibition

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Juror Statement

While in graduate school, during a discussion about pursuing a career in the arts, my professor jokingly said, “Being an artist is 60% paperwork!” After experiencing a few application cycles, I finally understood what she meant. Even if the percentages didn’t match up, it sure felt like “paperwork” took up its fair share of time, energy, and mental space. Not only because of the hours logged editing portfolios and statements, but because of the energy and restraint required to wait for a response.

When The Center for Contemporary Art asked me to share some of my thoughts about this exhibition, I knew I wanted to focus on the jurying process itself. This collection of artworks is the result of one person spending hours looking through 773 submissions in an effort to narrow it down to 56 selections. While I am very impressed with the final 56 pieces chosen, I also want to express my admiration for the 717 submissions that were not selected.

I want to thank ALL the artists involved for dedicating their time and energy to a creative pursuit and taking it one step further by making an effort to share it with the world. No matter what kind of work you make, art is a deeply personal space. I want to acknowledge and celebrate the courage it takes to put yourself out there. Whether you achieved your goal by being included in this exhibition or find that you will have to *try again* next year, you have accomplished something wonderful. During these strange and uncertain times, you gave yourself permission to create and care for something that may only be seen and understood by you. It’s a brave and bold choice to express one’s self. By sharing this choice with your community, you create opportunities for it to inspire others to do the same.

When it came to choosing the final works and the awards for this exhibition, I was drawn to artwork that reflected a deep interest and dedication to the medium accompanied by a strong sense of creative ambition. Creative ambition can manifest in different ways from inventing complex systems, to pushing the boundaries of material and skill, to the desire to use the medium to address

content much larger than the artist themselves and inspire others to think deeper about the world we live in. The selected artworks are the ones that spoke to me the most at this point in my life.

A couple of years ago, while discussing the challenges of pursuing a career in the arts to a non-art world friend, I shared my professor's joke that being an artist was 60% paperwork, in which they quickly quipped, "Sure! But most jobs are 100% paperwork!" That argument not only changed my perspective on the quote but on my studio practice as well. It made me realize that all this "paperwork" represents my choice to be an artist, and that journey has been made more and more beautiful by finding the courage to try and try again.

Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of your journey.