

SFVAC Nov. 2009 Exhibit at VIVA Gallery

Juror's Statement

As artists, we are all storytellers and poets making our observations about the human experience. As with all such authors, the deliberate misuse of a word or novel approach to a subject are not to be discriminated against when they add to the experience of the intended audience. As juror, my job has been to sift through the stories first for compelling content, then for craft and clarity of communication. In painting, regardless of style, it is the ability of the artist to conceive of a worthy story and also to refine our craftsmanship and delivery of the message so that our imperfections don't detract from the message (poor drawing skills, color use, composition, etc.).

Because we are dealing with intangibles such as personal responses and emotions, I'd much rather see a poet than a reporter (to extend the analogy). Imperfections can be overlooked when the positive attributes and successes of a painting outweigh them, but in the greatest work the artist's imperfections are so beautifully hidden and the story so compelling and artfully told that none but the most stone-hearted may ever see the cracks in the artifice. It is with this approach, and with a respectful appreciation that a diversity of styles all be appreciated, that I have come to make the difficult decisions of which works to include, and which to single out as the greatest accomplishments. It has been my pleasure to become acquainted with so many unfamiliar names, and to see the progress of those I've come to know. I thank you all for honoring me with the opportunity to jury this collection of paintings.

—David C. Gallup, Juror