

Women Painters West – December 2007 Exhibition – Juror’s Statement:

Thank you for the privilege of jurying the Women’s Painters West show at VIVA. It was gratifying to see how many of you brought in your wonderful art!

What I found most interesting about all the work that I had to choose from was that there was an inadvertent cohesiveness running through all the disparate pieces. There were a few very specific color schemes that were repeated as well as themes that were prevalent. I really appreciated that a great deal of the work denoted a very positive, female-oriented vibe to it.

Jurying an art show is always a significant challenge. There is so much good work to choose from but decisions do need to be made; there is only so much wall space and I have never been a fan of over-hanging a show as I feel it does not ultimately serve the work or the exhibition as a whole. In the end the pieces also need to resonate with one another in order to create a cohesive show. Color, subject matter and even specifics like the framing and matting play a part in choosing to the work and its placement. And believe it or not, there’s also a biorhythm in selecting the work. I have juried shows one way on a given day and had I made my choices the day before or after it would be a totally different show. Funny but true.

It was really a pleasure to work with the Karen Hansen, Marge Rheuban, and Diane Karpel. They were wonderful and patient as I whisked pieces from room to room, muttering to myself and sounding out my decisions. I tried to provide them some constructive insight as to my internal process on how work was being selected and why I was placing it where but in the end it comes down to a intuitive decision-making process.

I know there will be some disappointed Ladies. It cannot be helped. But know that you are all incredible artists. Let that artistic spirit soar and keep up the great work.

My Best,

Ashley McLean Emenegger
Juror
McLean Fine Art / Director, Bandini Art, Culver City