

Juror's Statement

Serving as the Juror has been a great responsibility because this show represents the creative energies of the New River Region. I am very appreciative for the opportunity to be involved in a process of reviewing works of such high quality in so many different genres. In my selections, I have attempted to assemble a show that included each of the genres represented in the larger pool of submitted works with the highest quality examples possible. When I serve as juror, I try not to enter the process with a preset aesthetic agenda. It is exciting to see artists searching for their visual vocabulary and expressing themselves through visual form in a variety of media.

The juried show is a very good place for artists to start showing their works. It is also a great place to receive reactions to new directions in work, especially if the artist has not developed enough work in that new direction to support a one-person exhibition. Rejection is a discouraging aspect of the exhibition process, but one should not interpret rejection as an act of failure. In fact, if an artist is not receiving a healthy dose of rejection when pursuing exhibition opportunities, then he/she is not setting the bar high enough. On the other hand, an award should not convince an artist to continue a direction in the work unless he/she is truly finding new creative energy in pursuing that direction. The best advice I've ever received from a juror was "It is only what is accomplished in the long run that matters."

Artists should think of the juried show as an opportunity, one of the greater context of artistic practice and exhibition process. As the juror, I seriously debated over a number of my decisions in selecting the show. The internal debate applied to both work I accepted and work I rejected. Viewing the works from projected slides has limitations. It also has its advantages. This format gave me the chance to view the work repeatedly over a period of several days. I respect the difficulty of artist's research, sincerity, and hard work.

The post modernist era in which we now exist has resulted in a pluralistic art world. The dogma and restrictions of the formalistic modernists have evaporated and been replaced by philosophies

that allow for stylistic experimentation in ways that were never acceptable before the 1970's. In other words, this is a terrific time to practice as a visual artist and feel free to develop works representing a personal vision. While these personal concerns may initially seem unimportant for an artist practicing in a small region of the country, there are many significant works included in this show that would be successful in a nationally juried show. I am most impressed with the personal vision and levels of risk demonstrated by these artists.



Charles Goolsby

Charles Goolsby is an award-winning visual artist who works from a studio in Emory, Virginia. He received his BFA from Radford University in 1980 and his MFA from James Madison University in 1994. He currently serves as associate Professor of Art and Department Chair at Emory and Henry College. He has been awarded professional visual arts fellowships from the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. His paintings and monotypes have been featured in more than 40 solo exhibitions at galleries, museums, art centers and university art galleries across the southeastern United States. Goolsby's work has been included in several nationally juried exhibitions and numerous public collections.

New River
ART '03