

## Juror's Statement

Congratulations to each of the artists who entered work in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual High School Art Exhibition. "Exhibiting Excellence" celebrates the creativity and passion of emerging artists and inspires others to share in the joys of art making.

The depth of talent demonstrated by the students' entries made the final selection of the exhibiting pieces difficult. During judging originality, complexity, creativity, and composition were considered. Selection criteria included:

- willingness to take a risk in idea, materials, and scale;
- complexity and expression of message;
- originality in concept;
- craftsmanship and mastery of material.

The resulting selection ranges from brightly patterned paintings to new takes on realism; from beautifully constructed sculptural objects to traditional subject matter illustrating contemporary understandings. The innovative ideas and unique approaches to topics and subject matter reflect the excitement, creativity, and skill of students in area high school art classrooms. In making my selection, I chose the most compelling work illustrating the talents of the students, and, at the same time, I selected artwork that would elicit emotions and encourage thoughtful reflection by the viewer.

It was my privilege and an honor to serve as juror for the High School Art Exhibition. I extend my congratulations to those artists whose works were selected and to the award winners; I encourage you to continue in your education and your passion for making art. For those not selected this time, I encourage you to persevere in your efforts. Developing as artists takes focus, dedication, and determination. To the art instructors of the students honored, I commend you. Your dedication and passion for art education is evident in the motivation and inspiring instruction you offer your students. Lastly, to the volunteers who so thoughtfully helped me, I extend my appreciation.

Again, congratulations to the artists participating in the High School Art Exhibition and continued success!

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