

## **Juror's Statement**

It was both a pleasure and a challenge to have the opportunity to jury all the work submitted into the exhibition. Each of the artworks represent an artist's time and spirit which gives the jurying process a depth of responsibility. There is clear talent in many of the artists included in the exhibition, making it very difficult to narrow down the pieces to the few award winners. Each of the artworks selected for the awards were chosen for their level of craft and understanding of their medium, and its overall composition.

The Best of Show winner Brian Melton's wood sculpture "Traditions," is a truly stand out piece, with a rich texture and form. It possesses a grace and lightness that belies the gouging, scraping process of its making.

I noticed Wendy Leedy's graphite drawing "Remember Miss Sally" the moment I entered the room and glanced over the entries. Miss Sally's eyes held mine and stopped me. Louis Armstrong's watercolor "Howdy Neighbor" was selected for the painter's ability to render the hair of the cow in a way that you feel like you can reach out and touch it.

All of the Merit Award winner's works are stand outs for various reasons. I love the humor in Mike Sandlock's "Hey Nay-bor" and the rich texture and composition of Carmalitta Barbour's "Emergence." There is a quiet elegance in the monotone watercolor by Bo Bradford and a rich depth of color and light in Casima Aryee's "Untitled."

Making art is both private and public. Many of us have spent the last couple of years more isolated from each other, and our art process has kept us company and lifted our spirits. Thank you for sharing your work with the community.