

Susan Aulik
Juror Statement

If I didn't know it before, I do now--small works do not mean small impact. After viewing over 600 pieces of artwork several times, I was amazed at how moving, exciting and "big" so much of the work felt.

There is a wide variety of criteria with which to judge and I allowed myself the freedom to use many--humor, skill, beauty, uniqueness, and guts. The formal elements of composition, use of color, and pictorial space played an important role and couldn't be ignored but it's fascinating how large of a role emotional impact plays--and achieving that in work under 12 inches is even more impressive.

As I scrolled through the images online, I would smile (so lovely), then be awed, then be shocked, then soothed, and then would chuckle. The power of art becomes very obvious when one views many pieces, one after the other.

There are no artist names attached to the images yet, in so many cases, the sense or essence of the artist is revealed; not in a descriptive way but in a felt and visual sense. And the more clearly that essence is communicated, the more powerful the work is as a piece of art.