

Juror's Statement

California Printmakers: Tradition and Innovation Exhibition

We viewed all the works with an attitude of carefully appreciating each print. For five days, we viewed the prints and their close-ups on a large monitor. We contemplated the artists' subtle dots, lines, and colors, as these conveyed the artists' expressions. We aspired to interact with these artists' expressed messages, as if conversing with the artworks in the museum.

The basic technologies of traditional woodcuts and etching prints emerged circa 1400. The techniques remain a part of printmakers' lives today. Among the entries in this competition, various traditional techniques manifested in many wonderful works. Hardly old-fashioned, they were novel and innovative, the vanguard of modernity. Is printmaking, including digitization, a category without limits, a function of the challenge and fascination of reproduction?

Yuzo Nakano / Kazuko Watanabe, 2023