

Juror's Statement:

I was honored by the opportunity to jury the "All About the Book" Exhibition. It was a pleasure but it was not easy. It was a challenge to narrow down the selection of artworks to only 44 pieces when there were so many excellent submissions.

The prospectus clearly explained the scope of the show: it is all about the book-- as object, as inspiration, as vehicle for ideas, as artistic expression. It was fascinating to see the diversity of materials, visions, and interpretations.

While some artists chose the book as a point of departure, like in the case of *Cinderella*, *Big Bad Wolf*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Secret Garden*, *The Scarlet Letter*, etc. others used the book as a vessel to enshrine their own poetry, stories, favorite quotes, photographs, drawings, paintings, collage, sculptures, and thoughts.

Because of the breadth of the show, artworks run the gamut from drawings, paintings, prints, collage, photography, sculpture, art quilts, and mobiles, to traditional codices made of sewn signatures and stab-bindings, to accordions, altered books, sculptural books, and constructions.

In terms of materials, artists used ink, charcoal, acrylic paint, watercolor, oil paint, paper, canvas, fabric, wood, plastic, ceramic, metal, and found objects. Most pieces are unique works of art, but there are also limited editions and a couple of collaborations.

Books are very potent objects. They contain whole worlds. Books give us the opportunity to time travel and to magically transport ourselves to other universes. I think books are especially important in this day and age, when computer screens, digital images, and virtual reality compete for our attention.

When art historians look at the art world 100 years from now, perhaps the physicality of book arts will be considered the quintessential 21st century artistic expression.

I want to commend Chrisanne Moats and the Escondido Arts Partnership Municipal Gallery for such an interesting theme and to thank them for so beautifully displaying the submissions to facilitate the jurying process.