

PAMELA EDMONDS
JURORS STATEMENT:

Thank you to the John B. Aird Gallery for the opportunity to participate as a juror for this year's Painting exhibition. Without the benefit of knowing all of the artists, the full intent of the work, or the context or ideas that inform the artists decisions, as a juror, what I could do is rely on my eyes, instincts and curatorial experience, as well as the keen and thoughtful input from fellow juror Clint Griffin. The result is a selection of artworks that are, in my opinion, compelling enough to deserve closer examination. Jurying is undoubtedly a challenging task, particularly when the field of entries is as strong and as diverse as those submitted for this competition. It has been a fascinating process to be a part of and a distinct pleasure to see the quality of work proposed. I asked myself a number of questions as I looked at each image - did the work have visual impact? Did the artist seem to have a clear sense of what they are communicating and what the work was expressing? Was I surprised, drawn into and intrigued by the painting? Demonstration of technique and artistic merit was abundant, though I was particularly drawn to those works that emanated a sensitivity to handling materials and a perceptive discernment of content. As is true of most juried exhibitions, the styles and themes of the works on display are diverse, however, what seems to unite them all, in my opinion, is a sense of sincere engagement with the world we live in. Some artists seem to be responding to the political and social issues of our times, others look to the figure and how it is represented, and still others delve into the realm of abstraction as a way of expressing meaning. Some delve into fantasy, while others rely on close observation of our everyday surroundings. Together, these works speak about who we are as a society and culture. They also demonstrate a marked understanding of formal issues, including the use of light, colour, and composition. As you walk through this exhibition, I expect that you'll appreciate this breadth of each artist's unique sensibilities. I would like to compliment all the artists who submitted to this exhibition and congratulate those whose work will be shown. Not all of the art can be displayed but all is appreciated and deserves to be celebrated. I hope the viewing public will find this work as exciting and challenging as I have. Thank you to Carla Garnet for the invitation to act as a juror. I am grateful for your hospitality, professional insight and assistance in putting together what I am sure will be a dynamic and compelling presentation.