

### Juror's Statement WSNC 2016

This year's exhibition was stunning! I asked to have a blind copy of the images sent to me so that I might study before I left for the coast. It was a most impressive collection of talent. You should be very proud to have been chosen by Mr. Mehaffey for this show. But he certainly made the job most challenging for me.

I studied the digital images making notes on every image - initial impressions and reactions to the paintings, recording areas of paintings to study when I arrived, and listing a group which might be considered for recognitions. Unfortunately, I arrived with about 38 paintings from which I was to choose only 23 awards.

On the morning of my visit I made a chart of the entries. Each painting was studied objectively with these criteria assessed and given a numerical score: color (including mood), line, design, composition, the handling of the media, and finally the somewhat subjective issues such as creativity, emotion, and the story being told.

It is my intention that the artists who receive recognition will set the bar very high for those who study the winning entries. I want the visitors to the show to enjoy all the many and varied techniques that watercolorists can produce. It is wonderful to see the agility with which so many artists tame the medium. But, one must be careful not to trade off exceptional technique for the heart of the painting. In some cases, exquisite-complexity can sometimes hamper spontaneity at the expense of the story being told. Always remember first why you are an artist and what drives you to create.

Please be sure to visit the exhibition before take down. The space is a marvelous, well-lit venue any town would be proud to own. Matthew's actions may have disrupted our normally serene coast, but in the end and during the most unreasonable of hardships, your board, exhibit chairman, and workers were selfless and tireless in their efforts to make everything right for you and the art.

I was honored to step in and spend the entire day with some of the most beautiful artwork in North Carolina today.

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