

## Siskiyou Artists Association 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show – Judge Sean Kenny’s Comments

No.	Artist	Title	Judge’s Comments
<p>Overall critique of the show:</p> <p>1) Artists need to really consider their choice of composition...what they want to paint. Many works could have been made stronger with subtle adjustments to the composition.</p> <p>2) Some works have too many variables within the piece and could be improved through editing or simplifying the compositional elements. Compositions should be like a haiku, a simple yet powerful poem format.</p> <p>3) Some pieces could have been improved through cropping of the subjects.</p> <p>4) All artists need to remember that the painting is the item to be considered by the viewer. The signature should not be a role player in the composition itself. It should be located in the lower right of the work presented in a neutral color or a gently supporting color of the piece.</p>			
3-D			
1	Don East	After Michelangelo	Good representation of technical abilities. White color works well. It’s a nice figurative sculpture that carries the artist’s vision. Shirt collar line is a strong part of the work. Nice transition to the face. Nice facial expression that is part of the form. Hair, especially in beard, is intriguing. Pedestal maybe a bit too high, but does add to the machismo and stern feeling.
2	Al Groncki	Geronimo	Nice carving. Not anatomically correct in areas. Hands and gun are very good. Paint not convincing; could have used opacity rather than translucence. Eye direction is very powerful, limbs have some plasticity. The torso is awkward because of disproportion.
3	Al Groncki	Birds Not of a Feather	Strength is the carved/painted birds that are identifiable. Nice assemblage of found wood with added elements. Poured acrylic area is fairly undeveloped. Would have rather seen just the birds displayed on the wood.
4	R. Mac Magill	Sky Dancer	Needs a constructed base, something neutral. Piece feels like a found object and could use some more artist input and carving to improve it. Nonrepresentational. Could be improved by removing some of the elements that take it straight back to a stump and emphasizing more of the areas the artist wants to focus on.
5	Sarah Rose-Jones	Curves	Feels compositionally whole. Like that it is an abstracted figure. Like relationship between silhouette lines and loose end. Line through the back is very gestural. Color of base is correct, texture with piece is okay.
6	Sarah Rose-Jones	Mother & Child	Super strong in smoothness and biomorphic form . Not accurately proportioned which works for the piece. Purple baby doesn’t make sense. Feels like in early effort in a series of works. More study would have revealed something more. Baby could have used more development. Appreciation is toward the abstraction of figure. Composition needs more

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			attention. Base does not fit piece.
Acrylic			
7	Darlene Ball	Trees in the Sunset	Technically really strong. Artist shouldn’t feel the need to paint around corner of canvas. Nicely arranged composition. Foliage is really well executed, the values that are used and the colors are good. The sky coming from behind the trees is working. The punched up colors in the clouds become artificial looking; perhaps too many pinks and purples. Top right area is not quite working. Way in which the paint was applied doesn’t speak to sky or clouds. Artist could improve by doing a study of sky and cloud shapes and their color palettes. Ocean works.
9	Don East	Hydrangea	Painting coming out onto frame is contrived. Areas of the piece have really nice perspective and others go flat. Like the big patterns of colors shapes. Bottom right corner really nice. Bottom third of piece is finished. Feels like less time was spent on the top portions. Like the background and foreground. Pretty nice overall. Criticism is that the main blossoms need more depth. Altogether quite nice. Little more time in main blossoms would really improve the painting. There are existing color changes but no values changes which leaves the blossoms on the same plain.
10	Neil Jacobs	Consequential	More complex than artist’s other pieces.
11	Neil Jacobs	Life is not Straight	Valuable to see artist losing themselves in the process. Looks like he grew his composition from a liberated or gestural move. Playing with ins and outs is curious, in an interesting way. Organized feel. Need more critiques of their art to help improve composition.
12	Neil Jacobs	Curious	Artist needs to stick with a simpler idea, unless he is aiming for Sci-Fi. Biomorph shapes are starting to move in an interesting direction. Try to limit the variables. Blue section is good but the focus in on the biomorph shape. Blue section could be a separate piece by itself.
13	R. Mac Magill	The Good Red Road	Layering is interesting but the layers should complementary and here they are competing. Overall it feels unfinished. Close to being a something, but feels like it has had three or four iterations. Action on top doesn’t support what is behind it. Confusing as a composition. Needs to have a stronger foundation.
14	R. Mac Magill	Self-Portrait 2016	Composition colors are really dilute. It could use something punching it up a little harder. It’s all sitting back in a way that isn’t convincing. Like the face and the relationship of the face to the orb behind it and

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			the mountain. Middle ground, needs to move either forward or backward as it doesn’t read quite right as it is. Needs to be finished in a different way. A little more hard edge would go a long way. This is a symptom of painting out of your head rather than looking at an object because you can’t see the product in an actual environment. Editing more could improve it.
15	Jennifer Pentrack	January 2016	Process oriented. Artist let themselves play with the tool and paint which made a really nice nonrepresentational piece. Appropriate amount of splashy colors and patterns that aren’t overused. Framing is nice.
16	Pat Satariano	Night Owls	Nice piece. Frame and matting works well with the piece. Like the saturation, colors are nice. Worked with colors really well. Understands how to mix paint. Has both a really dark area and really light area which is important. Composition has a nice asymmetric balance.
17	Barbara Soule	Dream Cliffscape	Lots of depth in the piece and variation of technique. Palette really works. Liberated mark-making works. Dragging the paint and then drawing back in works. Feels like artist is in progress of developing technique.
18	Lee Weber	Castle Crags	Recognizable landscape that is abstracted in a way that enhances the view. Impasto application of paint and palette knife is nice. Punching in the dark values is good. Not an out-of-the-tube black rather it is a mixed black. The sculpted paint and the directionality of the brush or palette knife marks support the items they were making. Bringing the painting around the corner of the canvas not necessary.
Drawing			
19	Linda B’eze	American Kestrel	Values are flat. The background doesn’t move a lot. Little dark. Drawing itself is technically really strong but doesn’t move into space the way it could. With the artist's ability to render feathers and reflected surfaces such as the eye the piece should really sit in space, but it doesn’t. Push the values harder to create the background. Stick also needs more perspective. Missing a light source. Great frame.
20	Don East	Brown Jelly	To do large scale drawings is noteworthy. Like the biomorphic shape and has accurately represented both the opaque and translucent sides to jellyfish. Patterning in the background is close; not quite excessive but is almost too much. Would have pushed harder to make four distinct areas: tentacles, solid

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			areas of jellyfish, translucent areas, and background. Framing is nice but the frame itself is questionable.
21	Carol Wilder	Pepper	Compositional wholeness - feels like a whole statement. Appropriate amount of content. Not overworked. Not a preponderance of any color or value. The image comes up in an interesting way. A few more highlights could have been nice. Artist’s signature doesn’t detract from drawing.
<b>Mixed Media</b>			
22	Sherry Ackerman	Perfection is our Natural State	Fun piece. Like the joy. Like the marks and outlining. Responding to the joy. Broad outlining of nice colors. Goofy frame works very nicely for it.
23	Mary Carpelan	Willow	Successfully created depth in the piece. Great job of creating a balanced composition. Nice that it’s not symmetric. The different elements do not stand out too strong which is nice.
24	Ann Jensen	Koi	Nice piece. Like that the artist was dealing with the essence of an idea as show in the fluidity of the koi and that they are going in a circle. Some basic ideas that really work as a simple statement.
25	Suzanne Mamedalin	Waves	Nice piece. Like that they layered in color and then came back and redrew. Like that they let themselves let the colors get blended in with the dragging of the tool. Ocean landscape.
26	Suzanne Mamedalin	Blue Hole	Nice Piece with a cool palette. Non-representational piece that is very strong compositionally.
27	Suzanne Mamedalin	A River Run	Like the relationship of the frame to the piece. Like the white lines throughout and the saturated color layered in. Layering was done in a manner that it didn’t make mud.
28	Ron Richards	Why Not?	Feels angry. Not very approachable. Like the use of text and the way it transitions along the bottom.
29	Barbara Soule	North Sound	Simple piece but not a simple statement: bamboo frame with rocks and a collage of paper that don’t relate to each other. Would have responded more with less variables. Too much for a simple piece.
30	Pam Toulouse	Field of Daisies	Hysterical. Goofy and neat. Playful and inspired by goofy stuff. Well thought out but feels naïve. Super innocent and can appreciate the process. Like that it has three simple variables.
31	Pam Toulouse	Look, The Train	Naïve feeling. Someone who is playing. Not super sophisticated. Like the work and the thought and addition of different elements. Too many variables in the composition.
<b>Oil</b>			

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33	Darlene Ball	View from Montague	Like the format for landscape. Interesting. In general the technique is pretty sophisticated. Nice. Technically strong. Overall nice piece. Good use of light, can easily identify the sources.
34	Darlene Ball	Yosemite Falls	Artist should continue to play back and forth with ideas about details and areas that are more loosely defined. I feel the artist needs to make the viewer do more work. Don’t close all loops!
35	Jeannine Beam	Winter Glow	Warm feel, cool season. Less brown, more variety in colors.
36	Jeannine Beam	City Lights	Very different technique and composition. Like that it is a cityscape as compared to our setting. The brush strokes support the scene. The garish lighting of the city is supported in the raw nature of the city. Not futuristic, rather you can feel the energy of the city. Transition of values in the painting go from a high end to a low end which is very well done.
37	Jeannine Beam	Spanish Haven	Compositionally strong.
38	Leonard Brown	Twice Told	Strong composition. Some strokes could move across the tree to create a sense of volume.
39	Linda Cosner	Winter Buck	Nice composition. Trees could use more development.
40	Linda Cosner	Band-Tailed Pigeon	Composition is very nice. Wings of the pigeon are awkward. Maybe depict the wings at a different moment in time.
41	Linda Cosner	Jack Rabbit	Nice. Successful ordering of composition so the foreground, middleground, and background are felt. Background is successful without being artificial or burdensome. Not too much focus on it; can see trees and bushes and grasses without it being too much. Middle ground is a little flat but sits behind the rabbit which is important. Frame is nice, complementary. Perhaps should not have used a gloss frame, matte black would have done better.
42	Anne Hill	Grand Canyon	Loose brushwork. Good palette. Good composition - foreground, middleground, and background.
43	Anne Hill	Faery Falls	Most subtle signature color of all and it is located in proper spot (bottom right). Very nice composition, nothing stagnant. Lots of gestural, loose marks to support the movement of the water. Like the technique and the palette is very strong. Moves from light to dark in an elegant way.
44	Anne Hill	Snowy Egret	Interesting. Like the background. Like the bird although its location in space is a little awkward. The way it sits is a little funny. Like the dissolved legs and would have punched up claws and refined lower section of feathers. Would not have put name in

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			middle of painting.
45	Dennis King	Guardians of the Mountain	The message, possibly, could have been relayed more strongly without the signs by using some symbolic stand-in for those. Not a dam, but perhaps a bowl of water or a river. If they would have been focused on a subtle object it would have been more powerful. The artist’s ability to work with that large group of people is amazing.
46	Dennis King	URSA	Warm palette. More contrast in color and brush marks.
47	Dennis King	China Doll	Interesting still life. Pieces are awkward as they relate to each other.
48	Anne McTavish	Middle Falls, McCloud River	Nice silhouette...maybe some lighter tones to balance the composition.
49	Anne McTavish	Castle Crags	Identifiable light source is good...maybe more variety in the violet tones.
50	Anne McTavish	Lucy	Great portraiture. Good framing, amazing eyes.
51	Suzanne Nelson	Boo-Boo Bear goes to market	Compositional wholeness. Nice pencil drawn finish.
52	Suzanne Nelson	The Hunter	Strong composition. Good framing.
53	Suzanne Nelson	The Fisher	Nicely arranged composition. Lively colors.
54	Anne Paxton Wagley	Into the Clouds	Pulls viewer in well. Nice light.
55	Anne Paxton Wagely	Lonely Rock	Artist has stepped back and is looking at color shapes as they compare to others. The values are in their proper location because they were looking at it and painting what they saw. Appropriate focal distance makes a very nice composition. Sky clouds are a little too “brush-markie”. Feathery feel in clouds as you distance from the painting.
56	Joy Price	Ethiopian Market	Feels like it came out of national geographic. Elongated so it’s not proportionally accurate. Everything is on an awkward plane. Would have focused on the face.
57	Joy Price	Walk in the Woods	Rich colors. Good frame. Composition needs more work.
58	Larry Sassarini	At the Lake	Real vision. Feels like it was painted through observation. Can feel the coolness of the shade and smokiness of the distant mountain and trees. Transition from foreground to background that works. Understands that the focus gets softer as it moves back. Really well conceived composition. Color and saturation is appropriate.
59	Larry Sassarini	North Shore Road	More contrast. Nice palette.
60	Lee Weber	Early Morn	Super contrived. If it’s just a study of technique then it is okay. Nice frame. Not a favorite. If the rabbits are the subject then they occupy such a small part of the

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			overall piece that it doesn’t do justice to the piece. All the extra is unnecessary. If the focus is something else then why are the rabbits there? Postcard size of rabbits would have been better. Or the right size with abstract idea of landscape.
Pastel			
61	Linda B’eze	Party Colors	Awesome. Really nice piece. Has everything that a good composition should have. Calm area offers a slight imbalance. Colors are nice, not muddy. Support for main object by darkening is very nice. Frame is complimentary, a little too big, but works nicely. Colors coordinate. Doesn’t hide anything. Very technical.
62	Linda B’eze	Deadly Intent	Technically very strong. Trees that crop the image don’t quite sit as different enough from the background. Background is nice that it goes darker, but the values and colors are too similar in trees that are sitting forward. Lighter colors in trees would have provided better depth. Painting collapses into a flat piece because of similar colors in foreground and background. Main subject very well rendered.
63	Kathleen Langford	Near Summer Lake, Oregon	Framing could have used more energy. Nice that the colors are in the picture, nice landscape, artist is ready to push into new level of consideration for landscapes. Lot of editing with regard to what they are seeing, which is good. Represents the way the place is actually being seen.
64	Betsy Shuteroff	Blithe Spirit	Liberated piece. Like the gestural marks, like the drag technique on textured paper. Subject matter is interesting, little too much purple but it works and is alright. It’s playful. Little looser, feels indulgent.
65	Betsy Shuteroff	The Kids	Love the mark making. Quirky. Nice range of values. A little less white mat would have helped to support the saturated color of the piece.
66	Betsy Shuteroff	Oscar and Myrtle	Very interesting study. Values have gone halfway and could have been pushed farther. Bust could have read as more dimensional. Could have had more perspective. Needed to push harder into finished moves.
Printmaking			
67	Jennifer Pentrack	Untitled (Horse with Shadow)	Like the looseness. The silhouette is nice. Like that it is not super tight. Like that the rectangle is askew with the edge of paper and edge of mat. Frame is just okay.
68	Jennifer Pentrack	The Visitor	Just enough patterning. Really nice balance. The vantage and the way the composition is constructed is nice. The colors complement enough other.

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69	Pat Satariano	3 Plate Collagraph	Like it less as it gets scrutinized. The layer over the apricot color starts to appear as dirty the longer one looks at it. The border and snappy highlights are nice.
<b>Water Media</b>			
72	Janette Ervin-Brown	Broken Treaty	Good composition. Variety of technique moves viewer’s eyes around piece.
73	Janette Ervin-Brown	My Bachelors	Artist understands how to use five different techniques to make them come together as a whole. Planned in a way that there were able to use the paper as highlights. Balancing values nicely. Framed nicely. Square format works well for this composition.
74	Janette Ervin-Brown	Twisty Pine	Using different watercolor techniques in a way that creates a statement. Doesn’t become confusing or garbled. Objects are there in a manner that enhances the composition. Bottom is more abstract and top is more controlled. Dark values and light values are nice. Nice transition throughout.
75	Leonard Brown	Theodore	Original composition and original construct. Nice location of object and softer focus as it moves down. The fun and playful way they dealt with the media is nice. This represents an artist who understands not giving the viewer too much information so that they can finish it in their mind.
76	Leonard Brown	Peony - Sky Breakers	Nice piece. Background and values move very nicely.
77	Ann Jensen	Cracked Egg on Saucer	Playful, morning, sunny, coffee. Not too complex. Maybe would have done a different mat. Simple solution. Moving it into perspective with shading was effective. Not a lot of extra stuff.
78	Ann Jensen	Ann's Orchids	Nice variety in technique. Good composition.
79	Susan Nihen	Morning Glory	Soft, loose, pleasant. Push color values harder.
80	Joy Price	Brown Study	Super nice. Not enough of any one thing - not enough of a landscape but not enough of a portrait either. Too much nothing. Needed to commit to bottom half of painting. Difference between jacket and background is not substantial enough.
81	Betty Swartz	Flower	Simple. Fills canvas with a nice blue breath in the corner. Lovely.
82	Carol Wilder	Big Guy	Framing supports the work nicely. Good use of color. Good composition.
83	Carol Wilder	Brownstone Visitor	Like the composition but not necessarily the technique. Likes the stack of cups and saucers but would have pushed background color to the opposite side. All the colors are warm and it needs cool colors. Overkill with the band of orange on the mat and bronze frame. Too much in one direction. Eliminate

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