

Scarborough Arts' "Big Art Book"

Juror: Margaret Chown

Jurying Publication in the "Big Art Book"

Scarborough Arts' "Big Art Book" will be a celebration of a 'fresh assortment of creativity' by local artists, craftspeople and writers of all ages. To have your work included in this digital anthology, simply follow the guidelines on the submission form:

http://scarborougharts.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/BigArtBook_2012-SubmissionForm_web.pdf Along with your signed submission form, submit high quality copies of your artwork, *not your actual artwork*, via email or snail mail by the deadline. Note that submissions may be rejected due to poor quality or offensive content.

Judging Visual Arts and Literary Awards

As an artist, art instructor and aspiring author, listing the qualities that go into a good piece of visual art or writing isn't difficult. However, quantifying what makes any given piece outstanding is hard to put into words. To me, it's the glimpse a painting, story or poem gives you into the heart and soul of its creator. Hence, the connection that forms between art and appreciator is always highly personal and subjective. For this reason, I feel it is essential to give the greatest weight to objective criteria, and to be open about my judging process.

My final decision will be based on assigning each piece a score of 1 to 5 for each of the four qualities listed below. If two or more pieces in the youth and adult, art and literature, categories are tied for the highest score, I will judge each against the relative artistic merit of one another to determine the winner in each category.

Impact

- First impression draws the viewer or reader in and maintains interest.
- Final impression is memorable and/or leaves the viewer or reader with something novel and worthwhile to ponder.

Technique

- (Visual and literary arts) The work exhibits a sufficient level of maturity and technical skill in the chosen medium and/or genre.
- (Visual arts) The work uses the principles and elements of art and design to create a unified composition (whether harmonious or controlled chaos).
- (Fiction and biographical short prose) The work uses language, literary devices and storytelling techniques to allow a main character to develop or work through a conflict in a well-realized setting.
- (Non-fiction prose) The work uses language, researched or experiential information and reasoned arguments to explore a question and/or express an opinion about an issue or subject; or the work uses literary techniques to describe a topic, event or place.

- (Poetry) The work uses language, visual presentation, literary devices, rhythm and/or rhyme, in accordance with the chosen poetic form (ex., free verse, concrete poem, and sonnet) to create a unified composition.

Vision:

- Conveys a theme, which is a statement, observation or question about humanity. Themes can be subtle or bold, personal or universal.
- Every aspect of the piece, including the title, works to realize the theme. (The artist or author doesn't digress or become self-indulgent.)
- Elicits the artist's intended response from the viewer or reader, which includes leading the reader or viewer to make his or her own interpretation.
- Changes how the viewer or reader felt about the subject matter; or leads to self-examination, or re-examination of an aspect of human nature or the human condition.

Originality

- Expressive and in execution and/or subject matter or theme.
- Imaginative and creative in approach, subject matter or theme.
- Experimental and/or pushes artistic, personal or social boundaries.
- Deals with novel subject matter or themes; approaches common subject matter or themes in a novel way, or it puts seemingly unrelated ideas together to create something novel.