

Photography Show – Wickford Art Association
October 20 to November 12, 2017
Traer Scott, Juror
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Juror's Statement

In this exhibit there are a myriad of different genres of photography represented: portrait, landscape, abstract, architectural and documentary to name a few. My goal as juror was in a sense, to include the best of each of these categories, which are often very different from each other. As a result, there is a great deal of variety in this show. A traditional landscape may hang next to an avant-garde B&W piece, but the one thing that I believe every chosen image has in common is the crucial combination of exceptional technical skills and a compelling vision. It is not enough to have just one and not the other.

There were many wonderful images that did get chosen for the exhibit. In most cases, it was because they were strong technically but in my opinion, did not have a unique enough vision – or vice versa. Sometimes though, there were simply two images that were very similar and I had the difficult task of choosing only one. In every instance, a different juror may have made different choices. This process is so subjective.

Working with framed pieces, physical images, is much more visceral than online jurying. When I eliminated a piece from the show it left a vacant space in the room, its absence was noticeable. I took the task very seriously because it felt like I was asking people to leave the room one by one. In quite a few cases, tough choices came down to print quality. Print quality matters immensely. Regardless of where an image originates (whether from film or digital) ultimately, making a beautiful object- a print- should be your goal.

As a working artist who sits on both sides of the jurying table, I know how much courage it takes to offer your work up to the world. I also know that I will go on making photographs for the rest of my life whether anyone else thinks they're great or not because photography is the way I make sense of the world. So I want to offer a most hearty congratulations to all photographers who had work chosen but to those who did not, take heart, you have chosen to pick up a camera and make something beautiful, something that speaks to your soul- and that is the ultimate validation.