

BLUES

In the world of color, blue has held a unique place for centuries. First being mined in Afghanistan one of the best forms of blue came from lapis lazuli, which could be ground into a bright pigment, the original ultramarine. I'm thinking that Robert Frost would moan at this approach to BLUE and this exhibit with, "I was going to say when Truth broke in With all her matter-of-fact..."

The theme of this exhibit goes so beyond the pigment and inks that we see in many of these works of art. Blue, has a connotation of emotion, music, loyalty, health, knowledge, power, serenity, mystery, hope, water and sky. The color has a calming effect on most people and as you look the work in this exhibit, you will likely experience that effect.

I have juried several exhibits here at the Wickford Art Association, but this was one of the most challenging. There were over 140 works of art, and about one half had to be eliminated to fit in the exhibition! Usually that is not such a problem, but the quality of work that was submitted made it necessary to eliminate many wonderful works. I hope artists whose work was not selected will not hesitate to enter exhibits here in the future. It became not so much a case of picking the best work as trying to give a good representation of the various themes, techniques, media that were submitted.

The photography in the exhibit was particularly impressive, to the point that it challenged other media. In the end the three winning pieces nicely show Blue in three unique modes. A figure in blue dappled light, a thoughtfully seen organic print in subtle blue variations, and a rich sparkling piece of the ocean washing up onto the land nicely represent the quality of the work in this exhibition. Two honorable mentions give a definition of Blue that doesn't use the hue, but certainly holds a mood and solemnity that quietly plays out a deep inner song. The beauty of the work is indeed how through this one connecting color, the artists have indeed gone beyond simple design and image giving us a glance into the human spirit.

Peter Geisser, Exhibition Juror

