

2023 Juror's Report

Linda Mustard NOAA

When I was asked to be a juror for this year's NOAA jury show I felt honored yet intimidated. There are so many excellent artists submitting their best new works! I too regularly enter paintings. Sometimes they are selected, but not always. It is a big responsibility to juror a show like this.

It was very exciting to see all the entries on my computer screen! There was a great variety of subjects, media, painting styles and techniques. Very interesting. Thank you and congratulations to all the artists who submitted their works, making this year's show a great success.

Writing a critique for each and every painting was a challenge. (It reminded me of all my years as a high school art teacher, writing report card comments!) I hope my comments were helpful.

John, the other juror and I worked separately, communicating mainly by email. I was with family at a cottage. (my nine year old grandson found the process very interesting and recognized most of the "winners")

Evaluating paintings on a computer screen has advantages; I could zoom in to look at details and out for the whole composition. A disadvantage was that the size of the work had to be imagined. Knowing the size is not the same as seeing it. Another disadvantage was the criteria of "presentation". We had no way of knowing if the works were framed or matted. The quality of the photographs was usually very good. After some consultation we decided to give all the paintings 10/10 for presentation. (Why not?)

The overall process of jurying and critiquing these paintings took a surprisingly long time. Composition and technique were considered as was the emotional impact and originality. I found that it was necessary to study the works numerous times before deciding which works to select, leaving many pleasing paintings not selected. Eventually, in consultation with John, the other juror, we agreed on the selected works and, after some debate, chose the prize winners.

Congratulations to all the artists who contributed paintings to this 2023 NOAA jury show! Keep painting, creating, and growing artistically. Looking forward to another great show in 2024.