

**JUROR’S STATEMENT**

Parallax Contemporary Art Juried Exhibition

Summit Artspace on East Market

140 E. Market St., Akron, Ohio
July 13 - August 18, 2018

C. Arthur Croyle, artist and art educator, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

There is a solid tradition and history of art in the Akron area. It has been generally rooted in the blue collar no-nonsense culture that has shaped our city. For decades, exhibitions throughout the area have been dominated by carefully crafted work that has depicted familiar and beloved subject matter. The mastery of the city’s artists could easily be recognised and judged by the viewing public. A number of well established artists have become familiar names and made decent livings practicing their craft here.

In the United States, only 1.4 percent of the adult population identify themselves as artists. The work on display in this gallery is produced by the creative outliers in this already small group. Their efforts push and expand the boundaries of visual art as we currently know it.

You will immediately notice that the subject matter is not particularly familiar. Recognizable and beloved imagery no longer dominates the picture plane or occupies the space. It is not always apparent what the message is, and often a piece on display may intentionally be filled with ambiguities or conflicting messages.

But now you are free from being a passive observer. You may have to apply yourself a little. You can still look, but you can discover and investigate, find buried and obscure imagery and meaning, notice patterns, textures, and details. The artists’ craft and skills are still on display but not simply dedicated to depiction. Color is freed from being representational too, now it can be symbolic or used to stimulate an emotion. Visual organization and hierarchy are apparent throughout the works in this exhibition and serve to organize the artists’ thoughts and compositions.

There are some works on display more akin to formal studies, that have a meaning only if you assign it to them, other works are more forthright in their messaging, many are intentionally elusive. There is a wide spectrum of work on display. Some of it will resonate with you, some of it may not. Everyone will walk away with a different experience. That is one of the most intriguing aspects of a contemporary exhibition.

The artists in this exhibition are dedicated to their personal visions of the world around them. They are also drawing their artistic influences from well beyond the Northeast Ohio sphere. Contemporary art is created and exhibited throughout the world and so readily shared. While extending what they see happening globally, they are still so intrinsically motivated and yet...they need to share their work with you, for your examination and evaluation. Enjoy!

C. Arthur Croyle

Juror

**First Place
*mirror, mirror…* by Gwen Waight**
This construction evokes the work of Joseph Cornell. These self-contained little worlds usually draw the viewer into them. This assembly however, just explodes into the space around it. There is an intriguing assortment of tiny and medium sized objects carefully playing against one another as compositional forms, but also hinting at a certain fetish and hidden eaning. The many little mirrors bouncing light and parts of the viewer back create a lively interaction. This piece reveals more discoveries to the patient viewer.

**Second Place
*Decartes* by David Kuntzman**

Patiently and expertly crafted geometric patterns and planes that at times collide with one another and then sometimes dissolve so subtly away from the viewers gaze and consciousness. This particular piece, unlike others on exhibit here by the same artist appears less intentionally harmonious. There are greater agitating and destructive forces at work here. The bright warm colors and strong value contrasts lend a more cataclysmic feel to the piece. Italian futurism and the San Fransisco earthquake fire combined in a precise but powerful geometric presentation.

**Third Place
*Her/She: Samantha* by Shane Wynn**

Who is this proud, sure, confident, defiant, confrontational person? Wait just a minute, look a moment longer. Now who is examining whom? The table has been turned, the viewer is now being judged. Can you take this scrutiny? There is a beauty in confidence and knowing who you are. This life sized photo forces the viewer to confront how comfortable we are in our own skins. It doesn’t provide answers but raises questions, high ground for any artist.

**Honorable Mention
*The Smallest Ship in the World* by Patricia Zinsmeister Parker**

Simple dominant shapes at first glance. Then the center reveals an assortment of seemingly random enigmatic symbols roughly constructed with a few careful splashes of color. A cryptic message perhaps a rebus? The top form appears as glittery stardust. The eye moves from left to right, top to bottom. Just before exiting the work, an explosion of light at the bottom right, then an attached message, unattainable to the viewer. What was that? Let’s look again.

**Honorable Mention
*NO.* by Jane Mikolajzcyk**

A thoughtful, but cryptic message in a three dimensional form. The communication is buried, or perhaps carefully hidden throughout the piece. It is symbolic, represented with objects and typographically. There is a seriousness to the message presentation, yet the work is ephemeral.

Every part is just where it should be and was once part of something else or used for some other purpose, now collectively arranged, bound together by stretched rubber bands, “Expand your mind” printed upon them. “Yes, No, Yes, No” An evocative work