

Criteria for Blind Juried Art Exhibitions

Definition

A blind juried art exhibition requires a knowledgeable juror or jurors who themselves will not be an exhibiting artist(s) in the show, to evaluate images of the artists' work using specific criteria without knowing the identity of the submitting artists. The only input into this process are the images of submitted work and the juror's perception of them.

Conflict of Interest

It is agreed upon that in order to avoid conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict of interest that the juror or jurors not enter their own work into the exhibition. Although somewhat more contentious, it is also advisable the exhibition coordinator, director or curator of the exhibition and their staff not include their own artwork in the blind jurying process again to avoid conflict of interest.

Juror Preparation

Jurors need to be thoroughly prepared to make decisions based on the following:

- 1) **A clear criteria for the values and vision of the theme of the exhibition;** sometimes it is advisable to provide a rubric for the jurying process that allows the juror(s) to rank work. This is helpful when a great number of entries are being evaluated and can streamline selections when multiple jurors are involved.
- 2) **The quality of artwork submitted for the show as depicted in the submitted images.** Despite best efforts for submissions to remain anonymous, there are times when the juror recognizes an artist's work. It is imperative that the juror respond to the submitted images rather than relying on their personal knowledge of the artist.
- 3) **A floor plan of the exhibition site with measurements** to help the juror(s) choose artwork that can be accommodated in the space. A gallery map should be provided to the juror(s).

Juror Comments

Most jurors will offer to make commentary in regard to their experience jurying the exhibition. These often take the form of a short lecture, gallery talk or written essay. Should the exhibition have a catalog, then written comments in the form of an essay would be especially helpful as a point of record.

Image Preparation

In order to assure that names not be visible during the jurying process, special care must be taken to make sure that images are labeled accordingly. It is wise to have a policy in place before accepting entries for artists who have not properly followed the guidelines. For example, a bullet list of infractions that would disqualify the entry could be included in the call for entries.