

FCA-COC Shows and the Jurying Process

How Jurors Are Selected:

Once the FCA-COC has dates organized for an upcoming local show, the show committee contacts the national FCA office in Vancouver. The FCA assigns three jurors to the show; two SFCAs (Senior Signature members) and one AFCA (Associate Signature member). The three jurors assigned are not local to the area and are, therefore, impartial. The FCA rotates the jurying duties around the pool of available Signature members so that one juror's choices do not dominate the FCA shows.

Recently, the FCA has allowed shows to include the names of the jurors in the Call for Entries.

What Are Jurors Looking For:

Composition, focal area, value (tone) and colour should all combine to create visual interest. The Jurors also like to see your work stand out and make an impact. Therefore, design, originality, creativity and a level of sophistication are all valuable qualities to make your paintings memorable. In addition, jurors are looking for competency in the use of the medium you chose.

The Jurying Process:

When the jurors see the paintings that have been submitted, all they see is the painting and the title. They do not see who the artist is or any other of the submission details. This is to allow them to select paintings in an unbiased manner. Each of the three jurors (two SFCAs and one AFCA) scores the paintings independently – they do not see the scores the other jurors have given a painting. The average of the three scores becomes the final score for each work.

Usually the scores are on a seven-point scale. With National level shows (open to all FCA members) there is a minimum score necessary to get that work accepted into the show. In addition, there may be space constraints that mean that an even higher score is necessary in order for a painting to be included. Scores are confidential.

With Chapter Shows, if space allows, there is a provision for two levels of acceptance.

Here is the section of the FCA Policy Manual that covers this:

7.5.3 There will be two (2) categories of artwork to be selected by the jurors – “Qualifying” and “Non-Qualifying”. Qualifying selections must be work that is of a standard that it would be selected for a Federation Gallery show. Qualifying selections must be clearly identified with a prominent label design, provided by the Federation Gallery. Only qualifying works may count towards Signature application.

The Non-Qualifying category is often called “Chapter Choice” although the chapter has nothing to do with their selection. Although the work did not get a high enough score to count towards Signature Application, the jurors feel that these paintings are of a high enough standard to be shown in a Chapter Show and that is reflected in the score. That allows Chapter Shows to exhibit more of their membership's work and makes them good entry level shows.

Qualifying Paintings:

So why does it matter if your painting is “Qualifying” or not? It only matters if you are interested in applying for Signature status with the FCA down the road. Here is some information about how to qualify (hence the “Qualifying” paintings) before you can apply for AFCA Status.

2.5 AFCA Status Applications

2.5.1 Active members applying for AFCA status must have seven (7) different artworks in seven (7) different FCA juried shows in the last four (4) years.

2.5.2 Only five (5) of the seven (7) required shows may be Chapter shows.

2.5.3 Shows not hosted by the FCA or its Chapters do not qualify for a Signature application.

Here is the link to the FCA website that discusses the different levels of membership in the FCA:

http://artists.ca/membership_chapters

If you are interested in applying for AFCA Status down the road, it is your responsibility to keep track of what paintings qualified in which shows. This information will be required when it comes time to submit your application.

Awards:

Awards can be determined in one of two ways. The show committee may be able to bring in three qualified jurors (Signature members) to view the show after it has been hung and to assign the awards in person. However, that method of jurying awards adds additional cost to putting on the show.

Alternatively, the awards can be determined based on the scores assigned to the entries during the original online jurying. The awards are assigned to those paintings with the top scores. In the event of tied scores, one of the original jurors is contacted to break the ties. Generally the jurors are warned in advance that awards will be based on the scores assigned to paintings.

Entry Fees:

Entry fees cover the expense of the venue (rent) and advertising, insurance, some of the prize money, jurying fees, and the cost of opening night. As a club, we attempt to break even on our shows, and entry fees are set accordingly.

I hope this information is of interest to you and helps to clarify how the jurying process works.