



THE
ART OF
JAZZ

Juror's Statement Paul Harryn 2016

For more information on Paul Harryn,
please visit www.paulharryn.com



Music has always informed my art by providing energy, rhythm, and harmony to illuminate the *life* I seek to represent. These formal characteristics of music move much more quickly than their counter-parts in the plastic arts of painting and sculpture. Music moves at the speed of sound, and by doing so, becomes the harbinger of cultural change. Jazz is a pioneering form of music that defines the life-force of our time. One of the fundamental responsibilities of the artist has always been “*to represent the culture within which they live.*” Art affirms cultural attitudes.

Because *Jazz* is the theme of our exhibition, my selections were based on this simple criteria:

“*It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*”, a 1931 composition by legendary composer, pianist, and jazz-band leader Duke Ellington.

This basic precept reinforced an abstract aesthetic throughout the 20th century – one that initiated discoveries beyond the world of tangible realities into the ethereal realms of imagination, hypothesis, and invention; a hybrid of inquisitiveness that consistently inspired innovation in science, philosophy, and art. From Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse through Jackson Pollock and beyond – all were motivated by the energies that *Jazz* represents.

That is precisely the quality I was looking for in the many wonderful renditions of our theme – and, in choosing, I wanted this exhibition to represent the diversity of *jazz* with the harmonious and rhythmic elements that resonate through our essential character – in the language of our soul.

The exhibition prizes and honorable-mentions were awarded to artists who best exemplified these ‘*attributes of jazz*’ with a mastery of technique, sensibility, and appropriate presentation. Additionally, their work represented an uncontrived coherence, attuned to – and in response to – the sound that inspired their art works.

Though I could have easily selected more, five honorable mentions were awarded to artists with distinctive insight and talent whose work also deserves the utmost appreciation.

Jurying this exhibition provided a revelatory experience that offered new dimensions to the ever-expanding language of jazz in the 21st century. My hope is that those who view this exhibition will be more informed by the possibilities of art, jazz, and their own potential in defining our culture.

Thank You,
Paul Harryn
3.4.2016