

Randolph Murphy  
Judge's Statement

I have always tried to approach each assignment as a judge of an art exhibit with profound consideration. Having a great respect for the creative process of each artist, I realize that the relationship of artists to their work is fundamentally a very personal one. I endeavor to give each artwork the same attention and respect as I would if the artist was standing before me. It is first important to apply some objective criteria of quality to the artwork and eliminate as much personal bias as possible. Then there is the added consideration of whether or not the piece illustrates the theme "Blue." Just as the relationship of artists to their work is personal, so the relationship of the viewer to the artwork is also subjective. Critics, gallery owners and museum curators write, write, write about art. Artists and art lovers want to talk, talk, talk about art. However, the experience a person has before an artwork is essentially emotional and intimate. There were approximately 600 works of art, in many different media, submitted to the Sebastapol Center for the Arts "Blue" exhibit. I realize that it takes courage for an artist to submit a piece in which so many of their inmost feelings are imbued. Each artist has expended so much thought, time and effort in the production of their artwork. The pieces have to be judged and some things will be accepted to the exhibit while others will not. In this case, given the large number of entries and the limited wall space in the gallery, nine out of ten pieces had to be rejected. Because there were so many excellent submissions, the decision process became that much more difficult. In the end, comparing one excellent piece to another excellent piece became more and more subjective. There was also the added complication of judging some of the work online and some in person and then trying to reconcile the two different processes. I feel that the accepted artworks comprise a very strong exhibit, and I thank each artist (whether accepted or rejected) for the opportunity to be a part of the process in the creation of the "Blue" exhibit.