

A Message from the Executive Director . . .

Is it Art? You be the judge...

The age old question: What IS art?

Something happens...somewhere an idea manifests, something comes to mind, an inspiration, or urge to try to express that feeling rises. Somehow that art muse helps create the idea and moves a human to try and manifest it into something tangible that can be experienced by others.

That spark of creativity that comes from who knows where, is channeled through an artist. Then he or she is moved to strike a piano key; stroke the canvas with a brush or a knife; smear the pastel to blend a color; bend a guitar string; squeeze ever so gingerly on a piece of clay harnessed to a wheel making a paper thin vessel; sketch a model that has been posing for 30 minutes; climb mountains, go underwater or seek out moonlit nights to capture a magical moment(s) in time; blend just the right amount of spices to create a curry to die for; or as Miles Davis once said "Music is the space between the notes. It's not the notes you play; it's the notes you don't play."

OK, so people spend a few minutes to hundreds maybe thousands of hours creating a masterpiece or perfecting a technique. Then what?

They decide to share it! This takes a big leap. It is one thing to be moved to do something that you love to do but to share with your community - that can be very emotional for the artist. Hopefully, if all goes right, some of that emotion and love is transferred to the viewer.

In my mind that is Art: the feeling you get when attending a concert, you close your eyes and are taken to a far off place; viewing a painting that brings tears to your eyes; caressing a piece of sculpture that has been worked to perfection; joyous uncontrollable smiles when viewing a particular image, sometimes a laugh out loud even! Being awestruck by the amount of stitching and use of color in a particular quilt; actually hearing the crashing waves in a pastel painting; feeling that love and care that has gone into a creation; but most of all being knocked over and drawn into a piece, for no particular reason, no words to describe your feelings, but spending hours going back to it day after day!

Imagine...you have to decide which of these creations gets displayed and which is not. The October exhibit: Gualala Salon and & Salon des Refusés is an example of just that. Our wonderful Judge Larry Thomas has that job, but we made it even more challenging, you get to see what pieces he has chosen and which ones he has not. This way the viewer will get the opportunity to see how challenging of a task it is to jury work into (or out of) an exhibit.

Come to one or all of our wonderful diverse offerings of art (performance and visual) this month and even put on a judges hat for a while.

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