



Daniel Roemmelt

Juror Statement

My Thoughts on the Master & Grasshopper Exhibition 2022

Amazingly, humans have been making art since the dawn of time. But, many times with little education in technique, theory, history or materials, therefore mostly “self-taught”. Then, the arrival of artist apprenticeships and the ability to work side by side with a prominent artist. Next, we moved to various Art Academies and upper-level studies. Then in the 1860s art was introduced into public schools.

This is where you, the art educators, and the high school students involved in the Master & Grasshopper 2022, sponsored by Mansfield University find yourselves today. I took this program and it’s judging quite literally. What I was looking for was that strong relationship and bond that should form between a Master & Grasshopper.

I taught for 39 years. I always had my easel and a new painting in the works, squeaking out time early or late in my school day. One day I had a student ask, “Are all art teachers artists?”. It took me by surprise, then I realized I had no introduction to what many of my art instructors created. A few years later, a student after graduating said, “I never fooled around in your class because I saw that you took your subject seriously, you were passionate about it”.

I guess that’s the best we can do as teachers, teach the skills with a large dose of passion and teach by example. To see us as artists is vital. So, I carefully read each of your statements. I wanted to see specifically what you had learned from each other. Many of you related life-changing contributions you had instilled. I also wanted to see the influence your artwork had on each other. I relished hearing you both describe your work, from its initial concept, through the process to the completed artwork. Finally, I searched for the independence the student was now able to find. The idea is that we educators give them all the tools necessary to fly on their own as creative souls.

It has been a pleasure to be asked to participate in the incredibly important show. Thank you.

Daniel Roemmelt

Retired Art faculty member and department chair in the Haverling Central School System, Bath, NY and Mansfield University Art Education Department and adjunct faculty at Alfred State University and Elmira College.