

Juror's Statement

Intent

I agreed to jury the *Emulsion* exhibition because I have always been partial to a DMV (District, Maryland, Virginia) exchange. During my time as a gallerist in D.C. I relied heavily on integrating self-taught artists, and those trained in the District's own celebrated art schools, with their respected neighbors south to Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, and north to Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore.

A priority of the gallery's exhibition program was to introduce young talent, fostered by their respective esteemed faculties, from the three regions. I did this by organizing group gallery exhibitions after visits, virtually or firsthand, to the yearly recent M.F.A. shows. These shows had become to me the Cotillion of Mid-Atlantic arts and one of my main sources for young talent as they featured the up-and-comers from each department.

Process

For the selection process, I let my instincts regarding style, composition, content and artistic integrity, guide me. I withdrew derivative work and was drawn to artists who pushed their medium beyond traditional models, and to work by "outsider," self-taught artists.

What is unique about *Emulsion* compared to other shows I have juried is the age and education range of the participants I chose. Unlike in the past, where I've focused only on college-aged recent graduates, I was happily surprised by the level of work submitted by outsider artists, and those who chose to pursue this career later in life.

The selection process began with just a name and 3 images, of which I gave a grade of 1-5. Resumes, biographies and artists' statements were only considered after sorting the first and second categories into a final group. The result is an exhibition of works stylistically pleasing to me, organically balanced by race, age, gender and education through an uncommon selection process.

Special Thanks

To Gallery OonH and East City Art, for your commitment in growing a neighborhood community that will nurture local artists.

To the artists, for allowing me the opportunity to view your work. Apologies for my absence at the opening reception and wishing you all success in your career endeavors.

Sincerely,

Lauren Gentile