

Euclid Art Association
2019 Summer Fine Art Show
Lake Metroparks Farmpark
Remarks by David Rankin, Judge



“I love judging shows like this. And I love Euclid Art. It keeps getting better,” said judge David Rankin as he presented the awards for the EAA Summer Fine Art Show at Lake Metroparks Farmpark on June 27. He juries all over the country, in addition to participating in national and international shows, some of which have thousands of entries. The goals are to get in, and then to get an award...which may not happen every year. “You have to get on the field and play the game,” he said. “You as an artist have the opportunity” to have work displayed next to another artist, an experience both “exciting and awful” as he describes it. Because this show was not a huge show, and in “an intimate location” there is an opportunity to see the work up close.

David listed his steps in judging a show. First he goes through it quickly, and notes the best pieces, maybe five or six. Then he goes back and reduces that group to two, then one. After this “Best of Show” selection, he looks at the work by category. That way, he sees everything. Giving 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mentions are all important, and this show was very competitive. Since the artist has already entered the work through selection process and (in a juried show) the entries would have been screened, the job of awarding ribbons is “just putting the frosting on the cake,” as Rankin puts it.

His suggestions for artists whose work is rejected from a juried show: “Go to that show, and look at it critically.” Also be aware of matting and framing. “That much is in your control.”

Rankin remarked on why he chose each of the 1st Place winners and Best of Show, and also asked those awarded artists questions, to allow greater insight into their processes and products. He closed by saying, “Thanks for the opportunity for me to cast judgment on your fine work.”