



Centennial Juried Exhibition

October 20, 2012 – January 13, 2013

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the Museum mount a juried exhibition?

Juried exhibitions have been a staple of the art world since the 18th century. The Museum has had a tradition of these exhibitions throughout the years, and we thought it was a good way to celebrate our Centennial. We wanted to look forward and encourage the next generation of artists in the region while at the same time celebrating the Museum's history.

How were the artists chosen?

Beginning on January 2, 2012, we called for artist entries via online submissions – the way in which these exhibitions are created now. To submit a work, artists had to be at least 18 years of age and live in Delaware or within 100 miles of the Museum. By the deadline of March 18th, nearly 450 applicants had submitted 1,300 artworks. An independent guest juror (not affiliated with the Museum) selected 96 artists' works for the exhibition, which opens in October 2012.

Why designate 100 miles as the boundary?

The Museum had several reasons for this choice. Of course, we wanted to make certain that the entire state of Delaware was included. In addition, we have always had a strong relationship with the surrounding region. For instance, Howard Pyle taught in Pennsylvania, both at Drexel and in Chadds Ford. And also, a number of artists who identify themselves as Delaware artists actually live or work just over our state borders.

Who was the juror and why was he chosen?

The guest juror for the Centennial Juried Exhibition was John B. Ravenal of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, where he is the Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. The Museum selected him as our judge for this competition because of his keen and broad understanding of the contemporary art field and his many years of experience in working with living artists on the East Coast. Some juried exhibitions have a single judge; some have multiple judges – the procedure varies.

Why did the Museum charge an application fee?

This is standard organizational practice for these kinds of art exhibitions or for artisan fairs. The non-refundable fee of \$30 for Members and \$40 for non-Members was charged to assist with the online application process, which includes the staff time and other expenses associated with getting the exhibition organized.

Will there be another juried exhibition?

This Juried Exhibition is a special Centennial program, and so at this point, we have no plans for another one in the near future. However, the Museum does have a community exhibition program entitled Outlooks, and groups can apply to have an exhibition at the Museum through that program. Information is on the Museum's website, www.delart.org. There are other Delaware organizations whose sole mission is to support the work of contemporary artists through exhibitions and other programs, including the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art (DCCA) at www.thedcca.org; the New Wilmington Art Association (NWAA) at www.thenwaa.org; and the Rehoboth Art League at www.rehobothartleague.org as well as art leagues throughout the state.