

## Juror's Statement

It has been my pleasure to serve as the juror for the 2008 Kentucky Wildlife National Art Exhibition. In the past I have judged several national competitions, but always as one of three or four judges. This was my first opportunity to serve as a sole juror. While I relished this chance; however, it was also a significant responsibility, with no one else to shoulder the blame if it doesn't go well. I hope you enjoy the works I included.

In selecting the works for the exhibition I first looked for overall excellence, noting composition, use of light, attention to detail, color, and other principles of art. I also attempted to compare similar images, those focusing on similar subjects or using similar techniques, and then selected the "best of breed." The resulting exhibition is one that is quite diverse in terms of media, subject matter, and artistic style.

The selection of the award winners took this process one step further, however, I was now trying to compare vastly different works of art. This became a matter of trying to discern the very subtle shades of gray separating the top pieces from the others. In many ways this can be like trying to pick your favorite relative, you love them all, but some more than others. And, while you may not agree with all my selections, I hope you will appreciate the underlying artistic merit in all of these offerings.

I would like to thank all of the artists who submitted works to this year's exhibition, without them there would be no exhibitions, or museums for that matter. The make up of an artist does not necessarily include a competitive nature or the desire for public discussion of their art, so I thank all of the entrants for putting themselves "out there."

I also wish to thank Jule McClellan, the Executive Director of the Ohio Valley Art League, for inviting me to serve as juror for this year's exhibition. She and her husband Ed were wonderfully hospitable hosts during my visit to Henderson. I would also like to thank the board members of the Ohio Valley Art League for their support of the exhibition and raising the funds to allow the presentation of so many cash awards. Thanks also to the staff of the Henderson Fine Arts Center for providing a wonderful venue.

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