



Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment

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SCAPEs at Sedgwick Juror's Statement – by Joan Gunther

Initially, I want a painting to shock me out of my habitual ways of seeing.

I look for an unusual point of view, beautiful shapes and colors, inspired execution and enough technical skill to let the artist tell his story. If the story is captivating, I don't care as much about "perfect" technique.

I want to see paintings that reflect passionate artists. Artists who aren't afraid to plunge ahead on their own without depending on artists whom they admire. I want to feel the blood, sweat and tears.

In thinking about this show, I notice many very competent painters. But there is a sense that there are many pieces that are great records of the place but do not reveal the emotions of the artist. In other words, we could put a whole group of paintings together and the average viewer would not know who painted which.

I enjoyed doing the jurying. I always learn from the process. I admire those who are willing to carry things out to the field, in spite of weather, bugs and rocks. There certainly is passion in that!

I hope the show is a great success and that you all sell!

A few suggestions:

1. If you are in doubt about framing - keep it simple!
2. If you are in doubt about your painting - keep it simple.
3. Check out your work to make certain there are 3 values over all - light, medium, dark - and don't be afraid of the dark!
4. When you are out in the field and have decided what to paint, turn around and look in another direction, climb a tree or a rock or sit down!
5. Get very close to your view or very far away.
6. Don't stay in the middle of anything!!
7. Keep asking "Why am I painting this?" If you find that you can't give a definite answer, find a new view

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