

PORTFOLIO SHOW

Juror Statement

To select the works in this exhibition, I reviewed more than one thousand images submitted by sixty-five photographers from all over the country. The process was simultaneously daunting and strangely liberating. I was looking for photographs that document existence, question reality or reveal history in fresh and exciting ways.

I like it when photographers really take on the world around them as a subject. I am drawn to photographs that maintain a close connection between the camera's unguarded eye and the democratic imperative to look at life in a specific and unidealized way. I am also interested in process and the material construction of the photograph. It's presence as an object is as important as its effectiveness or power as an image.

Photography - especially today - is a marvelously elastic medium. It can be slippery and unruly and no more a natural cipher of realism or truth than our minds are of rational thought. Fact, fiction, and fantasy may all play a part. We are free to pick our poison.

Julian Cox, Founding Curator of Photography and Chief Curator,
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco