

# A Statement from our Juror, Leila Daw

## “Anything You Want”

Congratulations to ALL of the artists who submitted pieces to this show. It was very difficult to winnow the huge number of very diverse works down to just 80. I was impressed by all the energy and hard work and talent. The photography and photo based work seemed particularly strong, although there was interesting work in all media. I was surprised that there wasn't more collaged work in the mix, nor very much sculpture. This is not a criticism, just an observation. I was thrilled to see so MUCH work!

Artists always want to know about the criteria of a juror, so here goes:

I want art to tell me something I didn't know before, about the subject, or a feeling, or the medium. It might show a familiar subject in a new way, or use materials interestingly.

I look for unique vision -- does the artist have something fascinating to “say”?

I do look for technical competence, to a certain extent, but this may be overridden by the first two criteria.

And pieces that seem too derivative of the work of other, well known artists are kind of a minus in my book, because I want to see work by artists working with their own fresh ideas.

I don't have to LIKE the work; I chose a couple of pieces for this show I didn't actually “like”, but I respected what the artist was doing, and the pieces kind of got under my skin, in a good way.

These are criteria I used to tell my students. But words alone can't fully express what any of us looks for in art, as all of you know.

So again, congratulations to all the members of the Essex Art Association, whether or not your work was selected for this particular show. I don't need to tell you to keep making art, and submitting it, and showing it!

Leila Daw, Artist