

Women Painters West
California Strong Exhibit
Juror's Statement

I was so pleased to be asked to jury the "California Strong" Exhibit for Women Painters West, a task I did not take lightly. After going through the entries several times, the work that elicited an emotional response became clear. When making choices about the top awards, I was particularly aware of the show's theme as related to the last eighteen months when our communities were challenged profoundly.

First place - "Determined to Tame the Beast" captured the very real threat that faced us and the energy it has taken to fight.

Second Place - "Ethereal Light - Santa Cruz Sea Cave" illustrates the action of coming through darkness to a place of light.

Third place - "Running the Same Race," reminds us that we are in this life together, whatever the challenge. The tonal differences and similar shapes become almost abstract and rhythmic.

As with any show, on a different day, with a different juror, there could be a different outcome. The main thing is that we don't stop painting and sharing our unique visions of this world. Women Painters West has an enviable record in doing just that!

-Judy Schroeder