

Juror's Statement
Picture This!
The Hardy Gallery

Photography, regardless the subject matter, equipment or method, is all about poetic organization with direct intent. Add a bit of ambiguity and you have me at hello.

When I first walked into The Hardy I was amazed to witness the quantity of images. A stillness hung in the air while they all quietly waited. With eagerness, I immediately scanned all the entries for work that made my heart skip a beat, took my breath away or totally transported me into another's world. Upon this first perusal and without hesitation, I immediately choose my favorites. These works set the bar for the rest.

As one of three jurors, I felt this an opportunity – a collaboration to pull together an exhibition - a powerful experience. As a photographer, I always wonder if the artists involved share my level of passion and if they, too, feel that a deadline can be the best rocket fuel to push this passion to new heights.

The bar was set high at PICTURE THIS! Without a doubt, the face of a young boy stole my heart. From there it was easy to proceed with him gazing steadfast with such trust and intensity. This image felt reminiscent of Sally Mann's *Immediate Family* series – a body of work that called me to become a photographer.

As we dove deeper into the process of jurying, an image of quiet fortitude lingered in my mind's eye. I continued to return to it again and again. I drank in its subtle strength within the rhythm of pattern and depth. This old school process derived from a digital capture is the epitome of modern artistry that pushes photography to an unexpected level of excellence. To this image, 'Kangaroo (Lake) in Autumn' – I give my personal kudos and award the artist an Honorable Mention.

Congratulations to all who entered and put your work forward. Congratulations to those who are in the exhibition and who delighted me in some way. Congratulations to the award winners for setting the standards high. Thank you to my fellow jurors for the pleasure of their company and the experience. Thank you to the executive director for this opportunity as well as her continued support of the ever-expanding medium of photography.

Suzanne Rose
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