

Visual Rhythms / Ritmos Visuales

Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA

Juror's Statement

I want to express my gratitude to the Torpedo Factory Art Center for inviting me to be the Juror for its Visual Rhythms / Ritmos Visuales art exhibition and to all the artists that made it happen.

The artwork selection process for this exhibition was done by viewing digital images of the work submitted for the show. This process, though practical, is by no means ideal, as it deprives the Juror of experiencing each art piece in its true physical and tangible form. Therefore, when I eventually get the opportunity of seeing my selections in person, I'll be expecting some surprises, hopefully all will be positive!

In the reviewing process for this show I first saw all the images submitted, then proceeded to digest what I had seen for a couple of days; it was then that I began to make a preliminary selection. Upon further scrutiny I came up with a selection of works for the show. I again revisited and reviewed all the artwork that had not been selected, made some changes, and completed the show's selection process. Finally, a Best in Show and five Honorary Mentions were selected.

Throughout the reviewing and selection process I was attracted to images of artwork that displayed evidence of artistic assertiveness in the delivery of its concept and/or subject matter. I was driven towards images that commanded immediate visual attention and that upon closer inspection would challenge my intellect and trigger an expressive response. I find appealing artwork that has a strong and engaging concept or subject matter, work that is technically well executed, that utilizes the medium and materials effectively, that explores new conceptual and expressive art making modes, and finally artwork that amuses and nurtures the soul.

The artworks that comprise this exhibition have, as a common thread, a sense of nostalgia for the past, the survival struggle of the present and the uncertainty of the future. Yet, notwithstanding this seemingly dire outlook, the artistic means by which it's being stated is infused with expressive warmth and exuberant *visual rhythms*.

Lope Max Díaz
Juror

May 21, 2007