

Curator Essay

Sense of Adventure

By Dr. Jacqueline Atkins

The simple word “adventure” carries a wealth of resonance. It can conjure up images of open vistas waiting to be explored, mental or physical journeys that present unknown challenges and risks, new ideas to be savored, unanticipated opportunities to expand personal horizons, and not least, new projects to delve into. We sometimes embark on adventures with trepidation, but always with a tingling sense that something extraordinary may be discovered in the course of the effort.

The artists who participated in *Sense of Adventure* chose to explore the concept in the broadest sense, including that of the small everyday adventures that we sometimes forget about: a moment of revelation as we contemplate a facet of nature we have always taken for granted, the satisfaction in solving a problem that once may have seemed to have no solution, taking the first step toward a new phase of life, waking up to anticipate what adventure the new day will bring.

The submissions for this exhibit presented me with my own sense of adventure as I contemplated what each of the artists had produced and how their sense of adventure had played out in their work. For some, the answer was obvious, whether in concept, technique, or presentation; for others, a more subtle approach to the theme demanded reflection and that I return to the work several times. It was a fascinating process, working through aesthetics, ideas, techniques, and composition, as many of the works were exceptionally creative both in their interpretation of the theme and in their execution of the work. These works provided a feast for eyes and mind, and I send my appreciation to all the artists involved. They provided me with a wonderful adventure in the jurying process. I am sure viewers will find both visual and mental adventures of their own as they contemplate these satisfying works.