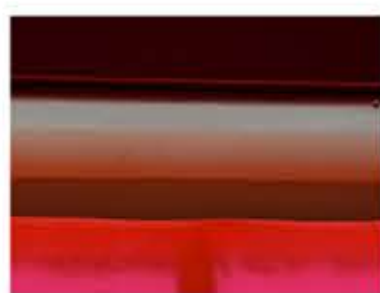


October Theme: This best work never won an award. How do you feel about that?

Barbara Ehrentreu -- I wrote some poems about Weather for a book that was supposed to be only about weather for children. However, my co-author decided to write about the world. So the book's title was *The Child Poet*. She published it but she never gave me credit, saying Amazon only allowed one author. While it was on Amazon it was #1 for a day or two. But there was a problem. She never gave me any royalties. She lived in a place I couldn't get money from and so in desperation I asked her to send me a check. She never responded and eventually I wound up taking my poems out of her book. My poems deserved to be read. Maybe they could have gotten an award.



Ellen Hackl Fagan -- in my humble opinion: the quest for recognition is rarely the reason behind the making of a work of art, unless it's a commission or competition the quest to learn more about how our materials work, and how far we can take them with our hands, that is the motivation for me. In fact, here's a photo document of a detail rendered from *Interventions In Light And Color*/an ongoing series at the Pond

Weed House.

This was a piece I created on-site with theatre gels, colored plexiglass, and bubble wrap installed in windows at Pond Weed. To me, it was fun and I was learning at the same time!

Doris Mady -- Several years ago a very famous theatre critic was coming from NYC to Westchester County to review a play that had a lot of buzz around it. He was filling in for a colleague who couldn't make it. It was the winter. Snow had started and it took the critic longer than he thought to get to the theatre. As a then volunteer manning the concession stand I was privy to his conversation: he didn't realize he was going to the "boonies", we didn't have his favorite candy bar, the theatre was cold, etc. He was one very unhappy camper.

Needless to say he panned the play like mad. Yet, other critics thought it was terrific. I thought it was delightful. As did the audience.

It was then that I learned not make any reviewer a god or depend on them to set the standard by which you live. Because even a god lose their objectivity and affect someone's life

Lee Paine -- I have been serving as a judge for photography/art shows for many years - it is important for artists to know that most local/regional photography/art shows hire 3 judges for each show, because 2 out of 3 votes on each piece that wins an award gives a more balanced outcome in the awards that are selected.

Every judge comes with opinions and different criteria; therefore, judging outcomes can be unpredictable. Some are actually negotiated outcomes; therefore, the "best" pieces are not always selected.

What I have learned as a long-term exhibiting artist is that success is when our work fully expresses our individuality and uniqueness and makes us happy! The only thing that art awards teach you as an artist is what other people like. That our own "personal best" does not win in shows is beside the point, unless you only create art for others.

The good news is, however, that individual and unique expression in all the visual art forms is exactly what is most highly valued by judges, so creating art for *yourself* also gives you the best chance to reap public rewards as well.



Margaret Esme Simon -- Here is my *Portrait of John*. I think it is one of my best works but it hasn't been chosen for an award and has only been selected for one show. It is curious how an artist feels attached to a piece and yet others may not appreciate it. I love the color in this painting and, as John was talkative, the piece reminds me of him.

November Theme: - What one resource would you recommend to an aspiring creative person?