



# Emmanuel Gallery

## UCDHSC Student Exhibition 2007 Juror's Statement

It was a genuine pleasure to serve as the juror for the University of Colorado at Denver student show because of the abundance of talent. A number of the participating artists seem well on their way to professional careers, if that is their goal, and a few are already producing work that equals some of what is seen in local galleries.

I'm particularly proud of the mezzanine gallery, which offers a wonderfully cohesive look at photography and drawing. As the works chosen indicate, some of the participants have a definite affinity for photography, arguably the strongest medium in this show, and a few have already developed distinctive aesthetic voices. An eye-catching example is David Harnish's "Revolution Three," with its unexpected point of view; saturated, atmospheric colors, and vivid sense of theatricality.

Voyeurism, which is so much a part of contemporary photography and contemporary culture in general, runs through this image and many of them in the show, including a triptych by Timothy C. Flood, with its elusive narrative and hint of unspoken secrets. No one in the show is more versatile than Sean T. Dolan, who is represented by a bit of conceptual whimsy and two very different photographs, including "Three Chief," an unexpectedly refined c-print with a multi-frame grid work of fractured figuration.

Another strong component is painting, particularly representational work. A particular standout is Tammi Brazee, who is showcased with three fine selections, all showing a well-honed sense of color, composition and dynamic brushwork. Also exhibiting considerable skills with a paintbrush is Lee Evans, who is represented by a striking, moody backyard landscape. Aside from Sami Alkarim's "Dowry," a large, textured gold canvas (the two sculptural elements seem more a distraction than an enhancement) and a few other works, there was a puzzling lack of compelling abstraction.

While the technique of the painting students is very welcome, there is a nagging sense that they are not all that familiar with what is happening in the field's vanguard. Too often, students mimic what they find in art magazines, but the opposite seems true here. I was surprised not to find more works that deal in some with pop imagery or the ornamental and decorative. There was also little in the way of appropriation. Rare examples of the latter include Beau Hagberry and Gavin Levy's collaged painting, "Pattern Pending," and David McCormick's triptych, which borrows from advertising imagery.

It was also disappointing not to encounter more conceptual works or pieces that in some way involve new media, especially video. With today's technology, it is possible to do small, inventive video works on a limited budget.

All that said, I think this is a good exhibition, and I'm proud to have had the opportunity to be part of it. To those students whose works were not chosen, remember that aesthetic judgments are subjective. Another juror with a different background might have made different selections. Best of luck to the participants, wherever your future takes you.

-- Kyle MacMillan