

2022 Left Coast Annual Juried Exhibition

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The *2022 Left Coast Annual Exhibition* on view from April 8 through May 15, at Sanchez Art Center brings a dynamic mix of contemporary art to the Bay Area to stimulate the mind through the stories that are being told and techniques used to create the pieces. This year's juror, Jeff Nathanson, Executive Director and Art Curator, Sonoma County Museum, had the daunting task of selecting approximately 50 pieces in all fine arts media from over 1000 entries submitted by artists on the left coast (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington). Nathanson noted, "the job was made even more difficult as the overall quality of the submitted work was truly impressive." Nathanson, as a curator, is concerned with socio-political content, the environment, personal expression, and innovation. His choices as the juror for the show incorporated these themes and were made with an eye for a harmony between mediums, subject matter, materials, scale, personal statements, and topical content.

Here are just a few glimpses into the show: Ric Ambrose's *State of Perpetual Indulgence*, a large-scale elongated work in graphite is a composed scene "stitched together" from several images, allowing the viewer to experience the whole environment, as well as its parts, as they move along the length of the panorama. Intrigued by research showing trees communicate with each other through their root systems, Dotti Cichon manipulated the color in photographs and then printed them on fabric for her piece *Ghost Trees*, with a goal to use her art to draw attention to issues of deforestation. In a video piece, *Memory Care... the long goodbye*, Catherine Forster probes both the loss of self and the loss of a loved one from mental health challenges or the ravages of age. Lidia Hasenauer's work *Jaded Justice*, in oil, presents an allegory of justice that questions non-partial judgment. Delving into the darker side of social media and big tech, Stacey Gregory's assemblage of scrap computer parts *tech, tech, tech BOOM* illustrates the influence of big tech on San Francisco and questions the grip technology has on society. *Evolving Evidence*, cone 5 sculptural ceramic clay, created by Charles Stewart, reflects his interest in life forms and expresses the metamorphosis from one being or thing into another one.