

*Our World* Juror Statement

Capitol Hill Arts Workshop

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April 2018

One thing is certain in Washington, DC circa 2018: our world is in constant flux. As a locus of power and policy, area residents are no strangers to the political machinations that impact our environment in local, national and international contexts. Given our unique vantage point from the Nation's capital, I was curious to see if artists' reactions to the theme of *Our World* would take a decidedly political tone.

With over 230 entries, there were indeed artists who felt compelled to note that our world is undergoing a moment of chaos as we seek to grapple with economic, environmental and political concerns. By using their creative energies to shine a light on socially complex issues, these contemporary artists provide unique insights into ways we can move forward as a body politic.

But perhaps more revealing were the large number of entries who took as their starting point the raw majesty of the planet we inhabit. Whether it be the strength of ocean waves, the limitlessness of a far-off horizon or communal bonds between friends and lovers, these works underscore the sublime power that physically energizes the planet and psychically strengthens the bonds between us.

I have willingly provided a megaphone for those who wish to sound the alarm over rising environmental and social tides; their voices must be heard. Yet at the same time I also take comfort in the works that underscore the solemnity of nature, suggesting that the planet will guide us to a new stasis if we open our hearts and minds. This exhibition presents both a call to arms and a guide to more reverent living. While one viewpoint might be considered demoralizing and the other uplifting, both must be studied and understood to have a fully nuanced view of the state of our world.

I would like to thank Kay Fuller and the staff and volunteers of the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop for inviting me to participate in this exhibition. It was an honor to jury this show and rewarding to witness the creative spirit that visual artists brought to the competition.