

## 2020 Smoky Hill Art Exhibition Juror's Statement



It was my distinct honor and pleasure to juror the 51<sup>st</sup> Smoky Hill Art Exhibition sponsored by the Hays Arts Council. I expected to have some great work to view and choose from and the quality and quantity of the entries did not disappoint. My job as juror became even trickier with the current Covid-19 pandemic but with Brenda Meder's expert and untiring assistance we got it done.

My goal as a juror is to choose and recognize the very best pieces. I look for creativity, composition, technique, technical skills, and a unique voice, that is, something you haven't seen before . . . a surprise is always nice. Two pieces that exemplify this are Jee Hwang's oil on canvas, "Fortress," and Tobias Flores' cast iron and wood sculpture, "The Big Love Squash."

It was exciting to see work from artists across the state of Kansas! This is a very strong show and I am grateful to be a part of it. Hays will always be a special place for me as I received both my BFA and MFA from Fort Hays and I met and married Kim, my wife of 44 years there.

Stay healthy and safe and keep creating. It's the only thing that keeps us artists going and makes the world a better place!

*Paul Allen  
June 2020*

*Paul Allen has been an instructor of art for 37 years, teaching painting, ceramics and printmaking. His own work has been exhibited throughout the United States and Great Britain and appears in numerous private and corporate collections. He was a partner in the development and design of the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art and serves as a member of its acquisitions committee.*