

Judging Rubric

The Unconventional Still Life • Firehouse Gallery (MAC)

Call to artists:

This exhibit invites artists to explore the Still Life genre in unexpected ways. We are **not** seeking traditional decorative still life works. We are looking for work that reimagines object groupings in ways that challenge, reinterpret, or expand the genre. Objects that hold personal significance or tell a unique story may provide inspiration.

Scored 1–5 in each category (5 = Exceptional | 3 = Solid | 1 = Limited)

1. Connection to the Theme

Does the work clearly function as a still life and explore it in an unexpected way?

- 5 – Clear still life with a surprising or fresh twist
- 3 – Recognizable still life; twist is subtle or familiar
- 1 – Weak connection to theme

2. Meaning of the Objects

Do the objects feel intentional and personally or conceptually meaningful?

- 5 – Objects feel chosen for a reason and tell a story
- 3 – Some meaning is evident
- 1 – Objects feel random or decorative

3. Visual Composition

Is the work thoughtfully arranged and visually engaging?

- 5 – Strong, dynamic composition
- 3 – Competent and balanced
- 1 – Disorganized or flat

4. Craft & Execution

Is the work well executed in the chosen medium?

- 5 – Technique enhances the idea
- 3 – Solid but uneven
- 1 – Execution distracts from impact

5. Overall Impact

Does the piece stay with you?

- 5 – Memorable, emotionally or intellectually engaging
- 3 – Pleasant and competent
- 1 – Limited impact