

# Tips on How to Get into the Members' Show



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MEMBERS' SHOW GUEST JUROR & ARTIST

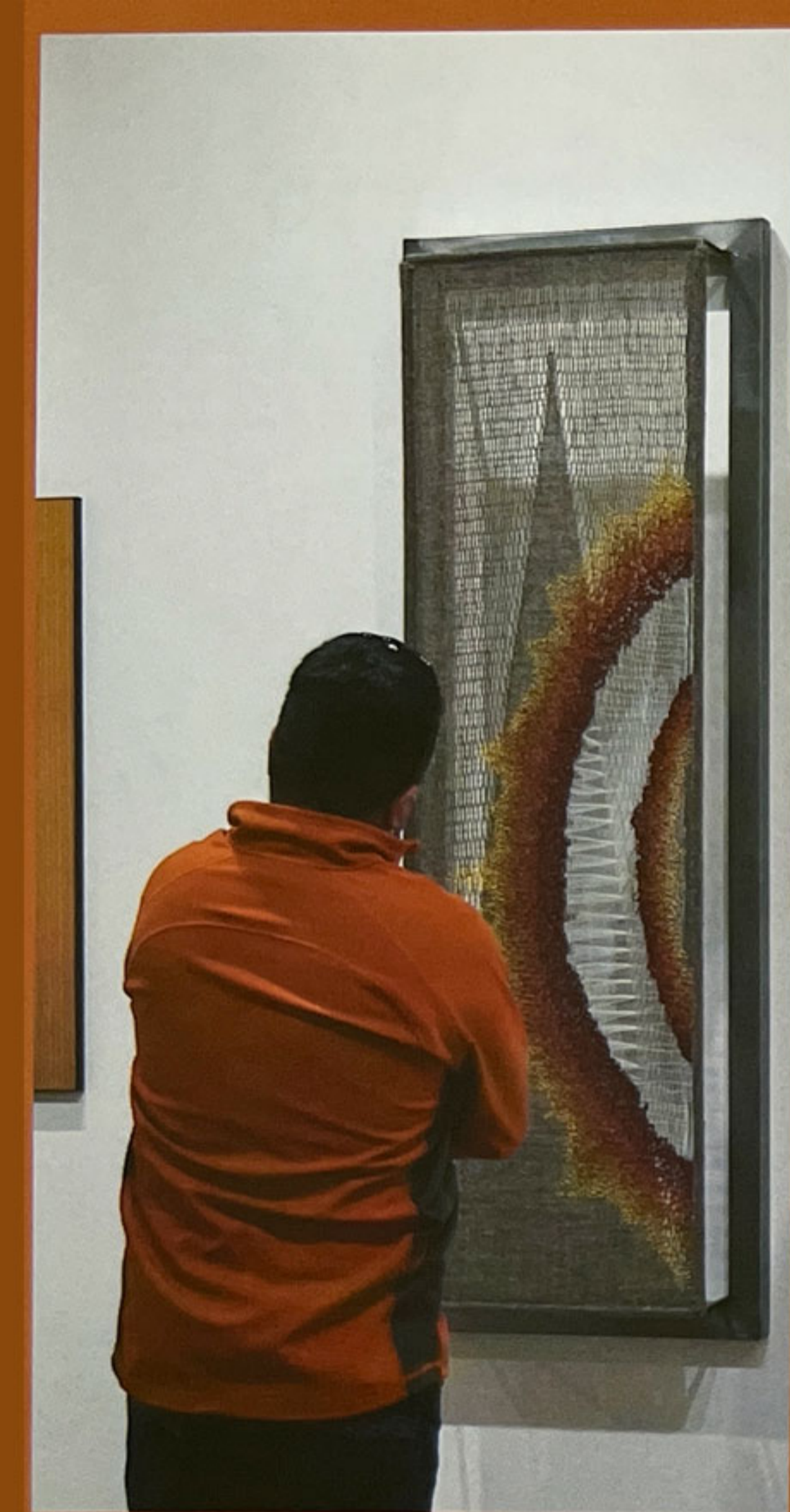
One of the first times I hung my artwork in a gallery setting was in the 2018 FAC Members' Show. I studied art in college, and I made artistic world maps for over a decade, but I had never shown them in public.

When the opening reception rolled around, I must have been the most nervous person in that room. I wore a colorful dress with a funky pattern (you know, to look like what I thought an artist should look like); I grabbed a glass of wine, and then what? I didn't know anyone except for a couple of familiar faces from Open Studio -- I had only just started attending on Fridays, and most of the members had been meeting for 10 or 15 years and were longtime friends. I didn't know where to stand -- shouldn't I stand near my art in case people had questions, but it felt weird just to stand there. I didn't know who to talk to, other than my husband, who was just as awkward as I was.

Can you imagine how I felt when just a few years later, I sat at a desk beside FAC's curator, Eriq Hochuli, to help select artwork for the 2022 Members' Show. All because the world map I made out of 1000 origami cranes earlier this year was voted as Viewer's Choice in the Members' Show?

What an honor and what responsibility! It felt a little daunting since we had to select just fifty pieces out of over three hundred submissions. I was excited and just a little nervous because I knew there would be artists whose work would not be selected. Getting notification that your work didn't make it into a show can feel like the worst rejection, especially for a new artist. It's hard not to take it personally, I know.

For that reason, I thought it would be helpful to share what I have learned over the years to get your work into the Members' Show. I can't guarantee you'll get in, but I hope this helps.



Installation view of the 2022 Members' Show, Foothills Art Center, 2022

## VARIETY & DIVERSITY

The overall goal is to show the variety, diversity, talent, and skill among the artists who are members of Foothills Art Center. Remember, only 50-60 works out of over 300 make the final cut, so it is competitive. This also means if 200 of the submissions are landscape paintings and that's what you happen to paint, it's going to be even more competitive.



Detail of: *On the Lookout*, Traci Zajackowski, colored pencil, marker, acrylic paint

## AIM HIGH

Foothills Art Center wants to see artists push themselves to execute work of the highest caliber. This means demonstrating a high-quality artistic technique. Jurors consider all the essential elements of fine art, including materials, subject matter, composition, shape, line, color, texture, space, value, contrast, rhythm, pattern, perspective, unity, etc. If you think you need to work on technique, consider taking a class at FAC or joining Open Studio - you will get great advice, community, and support.

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Detail of: *Tidal Tapestry*, Sarah Drummond, linocut reduction block print

## PROVOKE THINKING AND DIALOGUE

As Eriq and I made our way through all the submissions, there were a few select works that ended up being conversation pieces... for whatever reason, they got us talking and discussing. It might have been unusual subject matter, composition, theme, or unique use of materials. They were works that made us stop, think, discuss, feel something, anything, good or bad. Those pieces made it into the show because, as artists, that's the power we hold - we get to make statements and make people feel.



Detail of: *Idle Worship*, Jon Bryson, digital sculpture/3D print. photo credit: Jay Clawson

## TAKE RISKS

This is a tricky one. One thing that makes Foothills Art Center amazing is the artists who have been members for years, even decades. As artists, we are encouraged to 'find our voice' or stick to a style or technique, so our work stands out as one of ours... in the end, that's what sells. When you see it, you know a Van Gogh is a Van Gogh; you know a Warhol is a Warhol. Of course, the jurors of the Members' Show do not discourage this. However, they like to see FAC artists take risks and push themselves to try something new and different from year to year to show how they have grown.

Above all, the Members' Show is not about creating art that sells (although that is the goal of the Holiday Art Market if you're interested in that!), it's more about demonstrating the power of art, whether in the beauty of a landscape painting, the curiosity of a 3D-printed sculpture, the dialogue around a theme encouraging social change, or a work that teaches you something new about the world or yourself. ■

We encourage you to come see the exhibit in person through April 24th or to our reception on Friday, March 18th.

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