

Willie Cole

Juror's Statement

2014 Pacific States Biennial National Printmaking Exhibition

Judging is no easy task. I want to begin by first saying that I give honor, praise, and respect to anyone who has the inclination to, and/or takes the time to make a work of art, no matter what the medium. Art production is a difficult task, even when it seems or looks easy. It is both a physical and an emotional commitment. And successfully producing a work of art, in my opinion, makes any one a winner despite competitions and contests. So congratulations to all who have embarked on this creative journey with the University of Hawaii at Hilo. This said then I must confess that in this capacity as judge and jury the most difficult part of my task was the act of selecting one work of art over another. But of course I know that "judging" is what a judge has to do. So my first act towards inclusion and elimination was to separate from the pack the works that at first glance induced a gut or visceral reaction in me. In my opinion many printmakers often forgo creativity and instead lean more towards a somewhat pedantic approach to art production wherein pride in technique comes first. So secondly, from this selected few who survived the first cut, I narrowed the pack even further by selecting the pieces that I found most innovative, in technique as well as story telling, or both. The final outcome hopefully will be an exhibition that both shocks and amazes, while inspiring and teaching all who view it, what a great print, and a great work of art can truly be.