

Submission Guidelines for the Camerawork Gallery

First, some unusual Aspects of our Gallery:

We are always interested in considering any photographer's work, but below is our explanation about our unusual status and why some out-of-area artists decide that we are not what they are looking for. Others are thrilled and have successful shows:

Camerawork Gallery is the oldest fine art photography gallery in the US, but we are a non-commercial community gallery started with the encouragement of Minor White. We have had monthly shows since 1970 without interruption mostly of Pacific Northwest photographers, but also a smattering of people from around the nation. Our most famous exhibitor has been Jerry Uelsmann. We have excellent lighting and a mounting system that accommodates matted work up to 18x24" under glass held to a mounting surface with mirror clips. However many artists choose to either hang framed work or design their own custom sized glass or plexi systems for their work if it is larger or unusually sized. Cost of custom arrangements must be borne by the photographer and the photographer also puts up and takes down the show.

However, all work can be sold by the photographer through direct contact with the buyer with no commission taken. Most photographers also have receptions at the Gallery at their expense. Even out of towners have done this, but it is totally up to each photographer as to whether they want to do this or not. The facility is very large and accommodates a party very nicely and its use is free of charge. We promote the show in all the local magazines and papers and we have an extensive emailing list and we also mail out deluxe sized full color cards from Modern Postcard at no expense to you. We also send the photographer approximately 250 cards for his/her own use also free of charge. Our community of photographers and photography lovers have long used and regularly visited the gallery and we are a Portland institution even though we are not a store-front or commercial gallery in the classic sense.

The main concern for out of town exhibitors is that the exhibitor is required to hang and take down the show. This is usually handled by a local person acting as a sponsor. He/she would handle all the photographic mailing, insuring, hanging, and take down. This has worked very well in the past, but of course requires that the artist fund these activities. Recently many out of town artists have chosen to fly in for the installation and then back again for the take down. So in this regard, this arrangement is not every photographer's cup of tea. But

many national photographers have really enjoyed the process and mounted excellent shows.

Making a submission:

I am willing to consider work by having you send me a proposal that includes an explanation of your body of work, why you feel that it is a cohesive body of work, and a set of jpeg images of the body of work to review. Please do not just refer me to your web site. I wish to see that you have edited and put together for your proposal. Contact me first through the contact form on this website and I will respond with an email address that you can send attachments to. Otherwise you can send proposals and images by mail at the mailing address listed on the home page of this web site.

What we are looking for:

We are unabashed lovers of beauty. Obviously this is hard to define, but we look for aesthetic merit no matter what the subject matter. We are looking for fine art photography and not simply good literal photographs of “pretty subjects”.

We like conceptual topics, but there must be aesthetic merit as well for the work to be considered. Having both is wonderful.

Unfortunately, we cannot show figure/nudity because of our public location and inability to prevent those who would be offended from being so.

Final curatorial decisions are made by the director, Scott Jones based on personal taste. Therefore, good bodies of work may not be accepted simply because of a lack of alignment in taste between curator and photographer.

If all of the above feels comfortable to you, we look forward to receiving your submission.

Scott Jones
Director and Curator
Camerawork Gallery
Portland, Oregon, USA