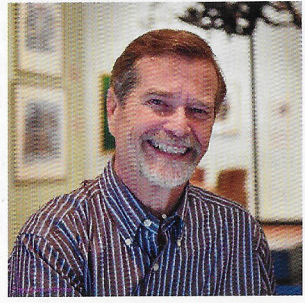


## R. Lynn Whitelaw

R. Lynn Whitelaw, who retired in 2015 after 40+-years working in the visual arts, is a graduate of Florida State University with bachelor and master's degrees in the *History and Criticism of Art*. During his career, he was employed at Hillsborough Community College for 15 years in arts management and teaching, was Curator of Education at the Tampa Museum of Art for 8 years, where he was honored by the Florida Association of Museums with an *Innovator Award* for a nationally recognized partnership program with Hillsborough County Public Schools, and in 1998, became founding director of the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, located on the Tarpon Springs Campus of St. Petersburg College. During his 17-year tenure at the Leepa-Rattner Museum, he also served as chief curator and dramatically expanded the museum's art collection, including acquisition of the art holdings of the former Gulf Coast Museum of Art. In September 2015, Mr. Whitelaw was honored with a *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Florida Association of Museums.



In his curatorial efforts, Mr. Whitelaw has organized over 140 exhibitions, many with published catalogues and gallery guides. He also served on state and local arts boards, including *Arts for a Complete Education (ACE)*, the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, and Palm Harbor Art Fest, as well as serving on Hillsborough and Pinellas County art-in-public places and grant review committees. Mr. Whitelaw has been a judge for over 18 Florida art shows, including the Naples Art Fair, Halifax Arts Festival (Daytona Beach), Art Harvest Art Show (Dunedin, FL), Ocala Arts Festival, Lake Wales Art Show, Mount Dora Art Festival, and Tarpon Springs Art Festival.

Since retirement, Mr. Whitelaw has lectured and published articles on the history of the arts in Tarpon Springs and specifically on artist George Inness, Jr. (1854-1926), who was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 2019. He has taught art history courses for Eckerd College's OLLI program, organized exhibitions for Gallery 221 at Hillsborough Community College and Brooker Creek Preserve's Gallery, and has continued to jury shows, including the 2017 *Florida's Finest* exhibition at the Art Center Sarasota, the 2019 *All Florida* exhibition at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers, and most recently the 16<sup>th</sup> *Explore This! On-Line Exhibition* for the Color Pencil Society of America. Mr. Whitelaw is a contributing writer for *BayArtFiles*, *Arts Coast Journal*, and his *40 Years of the Visual Arts in the Tampa Bay Area: A Personal Reflection (1975-2015)*, appeared in the March/April 2016 issue of *Tampa Bay Magazine* and is available in Podcast on the Creative Pinellas web site.

5

## Judge's Statement

What an honor to be the Judge for the 47<sup>th</sup> Miniature Art Society of Florida International Miniature Art Show. I have indirectly and directly been involved with MASF since 1993 and was pleased, as director of the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, to host the show several times at our institution. I have always admired the organizational skills, the passionate dedication of volunteers, the professional standards of the artists, and the status Miniature Art Society of Florida has achieved in advancing this unique art form within our state and internationally. There is so much for MASF to be proud of and I thank you for letting me be a part of it this year.

While not a practicing artist, I have been an art professional with experience as a museum director, curator, fine art judge, writer, and researcher on art. As a judge, I have developed a matrix for jurying art based on objective, evaluative, comparative, implied, and subjective observation. Originality, creative use of visual elements, mastery of principles of design, quality of artistic expression, and attention to detail, specifically in miniatures, all serve to define a successful work of miniature art.

In judging the 585 entries, all of which were potential winners, it was a formidable task to select the final awards. I'm not certain if it was because of a missed year with the pandemic or the isolation we all have experienced, but the quality of work for this year's show seems particularly exemplar, also including the first-time entrants. It was my pleasure to study each of the submitted works for this show and I extend a heartfelt congratulations to each of you for your remarkable talent and creativity. During this difficult time, it is art, born of observation and investigation, that truly elevates our humanity.

