

## WARNING

WHAT FOLLOWS IS AN UNABASHEDLY HONEST BUT POLITICALLY INCORRECT JUROR'S STATEMENT GUARANTEED TO OFFEND SOMEONE.

Over the course of my career I have seen specialized and exclusive “niche” exhibitions proliferate and become increasingly specific and exclusionary. I am 100% in favor of under-represented, under-exposed groups being showcased and spotlighted-- but it sometimes seems that to be considered worth exhibiting you need to be a one-armed Alaskan lesbian who does large-scale site-specific installations integrating traditional raku-fired ceramics with time-based digital media. The “niche” show is no longer the exception, but the rule.

Don't get me wrong. I'm of Armenian descent, a member of a tiny ethnic group which has been notoriously oppressed, persecuted and nearly exterminated—this heritage makes me cheer when I see an under-represented, unnoticed or marginalized group get recognized or presented with an opportunity. To look at me, one wouldn't think that I am a member of a minority group—for all intents and purposes I am a white, middle-class heterosexual male.

Rest assured, this disqualifies me for the majority of “niche” opportunities.

Guiltily I must admit that I have often wondered what would happen if someone said, “Hey! How about if to be considered for this show you've gotta be a... GUY.”

But that could never happen. That's so insulting to SO many groups. It would really piss some people off. Who would have the BALLS to do such a thing?

Answer: Jocelyn Almy-Testa, that's who.

I was honored and surprised when she came to me with this idea and asked me to jury this show.

In addition to having such commendable curatorial vision, Jocelyn is a consummate professional who sets an exceptionally high standard. Jocelyn and her Little Gallery Under The Stairs provide a very intimate and selective environment—this demanded that I select works reflective of her commitment to showing **high-quality, compelling, daring** work.

I kept these parameters in mind and the resultant show is as unique and intriguing as TLGUTS and Jocelyn Almy-Testa.

To quote the one and only Bon Scott, “She's got balls.”

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