

Nicholas Hesson
The Enamelist Society
Influx4: Student Exhibition

It was an honor to be asked to jury for the Influx4 Student Exhibition for The Enamelist Society. Having participated in the exhibition in the past, it was an eye opening experience to be on the other side of the process as I was able to see such great work from up and coming enamelists. The submissions were very strong and covered a diverse range of techniques that I found quite facisnating. The work was primarily jewelry oriented but a fair number of vessels, wall pieces, sculptural objects, and conceptual pieces were submitted. This made the judging process all the more difficult.

One of the key elements to any exhibition is presentation. Sometimes the presentation of a work can be equally as important as the work itself. Unfortunately, I found myself having to reject some strong enamel pieces because of a lackluster presentation. Photography and setting are essential for an online exhibition, there were some pieces that may have been great works but as a juror I could not decipher them clearly enough to make a fair assessment. However, there were also some outstanding photographs that not only provided context to the work but highlighted the enamel in their best light.

Overall, I believe that the works submitted showed me that the world of enameling is everchanging, artists are pushing the boundaries of traditional techniques to create new and imaginative works of art. There were also many pieces submitted that showed incredible potential for growth and signs of reaching the level of a master enamelist one day. I hope that viewers of the exhibition and the artists themselves continue to find inspiration and fulfillment in the wonderful world of enameling.