

KEIKO FUKAZAWA

Clay Juror Selection Criteria

"Artists are storytellers: We create today for tomorrow. The most compelling artwork both reflects our time and prompts us to think differently about the world as it is and how it can be in the future. To select this year's winning artwork for Ink & Clay 45: The Art of Type (2021), I used these three judging criteria: First: Artwork that compellingly engages with contemporary events that affect millions of people's lives (including but not limited to the global COVID-19 pandemic; the rising tide of hatred, bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism across the world; climate change; gendered, economic and structural inequity, and more). Second: Artwork that highlights the artistry and process of working with clay, including pieces that challenge the form as a worthy material and art form. I believe without exception that these innovative approaches lead to more original creations and will ultimately amplify inventive explorations of clay art. Third: This year's exhibition theme is the "use of type, lettering, symbols, text, etc." Therefore, I leaned toward selecting artworks that utilize the symbolic and visual power of text, type, and lettering, rather than purely relying on it as subject matter. These pieces show how artwork can stand strongly on its own merit, even without us necessarily being able to "read" the words, much like how music is able to evoke and communicate feeling and emotion universally across languages and cultures."

