

thien-kim pham - december 2013 all-media - december 2013 art in city hall - spring 2013

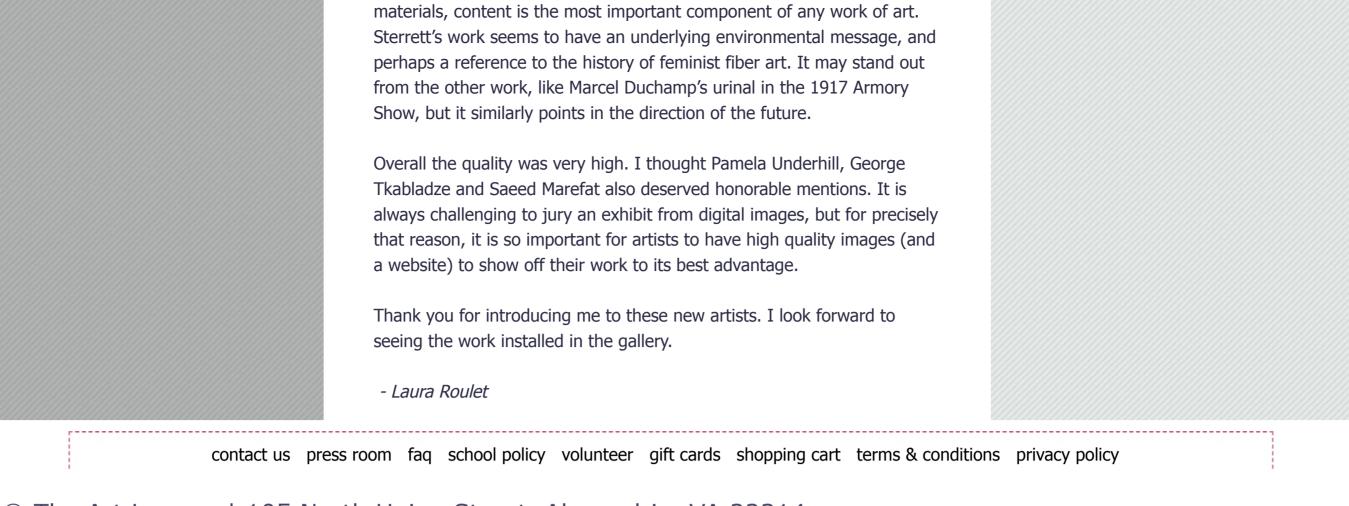


Pristine Environment by Sabyna Sterrett, winner of the 2013 Monkith Saaid Award

## **Juror's Statement**

The exhibit is titled "Shapes," but for me it was all about materials. I was impressed with the wide variety of media used by the artists who submitted work for this show. There are many examples of expert craftsmanship in traditional sculptural materials such as terra cotta, marble, bronze and wood. But I was also interested in the artists who chose to work in felt, mixed media, recycled materials and plastic.

"Pristine Environment" by Sabyna Sterrett may seem like a surprising choice for best in show. How can an assemblage of white, plastic bags compare to a cast bronze? Yet this "Home Depot" approach to materials is one of the strongest trends in sculpture today. The term "de-skilling" is a puzzling one, but it refers to a conceptual, unorthodox approach to creating sculpture, where the work may be glued, bound or assembled rather than cast or carved. Aside from a sense of design and command of



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