

## About the Juror: Roy Dowell

Roy Dowell was born in Bronxville, New York, in 1951. Raised in Northern California, Dowell attended high school in Los Angeles and took classes at the Pasadena Museum of Art. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, and also attended California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. Early influences included Joseph Cornell and Emerson Woelffer, with whom Dowell eventually became friends. At Cal Arts in the 1970s, he studied with Allan Kaprow and Yvonne Rainer. He has been exhibiting in group and solo shows in Los Angeles, New York, nationally and internationally since 1976.

Dowell's painted collages have been described as vibrant, exuberant, political, refreshing, and a "riff of optic jazz." They evoke modernism, Cubism, abstraction, and multi-cultural influences. He is known for his juxtaposition of pattern and color, and use of texture. Early on, Dowell collected billboard scraps from advertising companies by the pound, and found ways to use them in his art. More

recent works reveal his interest in ethnographic art of Mexico, Latin America, and Africa; they also showcase invented and painted elements as well as found materials. "I'm not interested in any kind of hierarchy of sources," he has said. "If someone makes something that I like, I'll use it. That's part of the reason I make the work: there's so much out there that's beautiful."

Reviewers of Roy Dowell's exhibitions have noted his "virtuosic command of the language of modern design," outsider graphic qualities, and "dense, sharp, fantastically dynamic" works. It has been said that throughout his work, "visual harmonies sing alongside atonal dissonances." His use of color and composition, and ability to make work evocative of many styles, are said to be dazzlingly fluid.

Of his process, Dowell explains that "A lot of the work starts with a reproduction of something: a little snippet of somebody else's work, or a decorative element off a piece of textile or ceramics. It's not important that people know it, but it's there."



Founder of the Graduate Fine Arts department at Otis College of Art and Design, Dowell has been its chair for more than 20 years. He teaches graduate studio courses and helps prepare students for their final-year exhibitions. He maintains a studio in Los Feliz and lives in La Crescenta. He has been a recipient of J. Paul Getty, Art Matters Inc., and Djerassi Artist Residency fellowships; and has lectured at colleges and museums throughout California. Dowell is also a regular artist-in-residence at Anderson Ranch Art Center in Snowmass, Colorado. His paintings, collages, and sculptures are collected extensively by corporations, private collectors, and museums including LACMA and MOCA (Los Angeles and San Diego). He has curated exhibits, and been the subject of a catalog of his own works spanning 1981 to 2005.

Roy Dowell is represented by Margo Leavin Gallery in Los Angeles and by Lennon, Weinberg, Inc. in New York.

*—compiled from Otis, Margo Leavin, and Lennon, Weinberg media; Art Ltd. and Art in America magazines; and newspaper reviews.*



Roy Dowell  
*Untitled (#982)*, 2009  
Acrylic and collage on illustration board  
16" x 20"  
Photo: Brian Forrest  
Courtesy of Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles