

My choice for Gallery Night is "Drawing, Broadly Speaking: Some Current Tendencies in the Oldest Art" at Dean Jensen Gallery.

Our first artistic expression was to draw. The charcoal from a fire was used to make a mark and our journey into visual art began. Drawing is the medium that artist's cut their teeth on. It is the base of all art, from painting to sculpture to digital rendering. Strangely, it is often an underappreciated medium. Like jazz, it can be considered elite, an artist's art, or simply as a preparatory tool.

This survey of artists working in the medium of drawing discusses the spectrum of how it is defined. Photorealist graphite works by Melissa Cooke will rub shoulders with the outsider impulses of Gerard Sendrey. The minute drawings of Scott Espeseth include charged interior spaces and off-of-normal situations that send the viewer on mysterious, psychological paths that evade conclusion. Nirmal Raja considers the essence of drawing itself, the line, and how it has been used ritualistically by women throughout history. The work of these artists and others in the show promises to expand viewers knowledge of what drawing can be and remind us all of its continued potency as an art form.