

CRISTIN TIERNEY

# Why These Finalists: 2-D and installation

**Evan Dean and 24 Hour News 8 web staff** Published: October 3, 2016



GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (WOOD) — Just 39 ArtPrize entries have made the cut among jurors and the public, but which one has the right formula to win? Art critics are picking apart each piece this week on “Critical Discourse: Why These Finalists?”

Monday, the panel of experts tackled the public and juried picks for the two-dimensional and installation finalists. And whether it was the public who voted for it or an expert, the chances are pretty good the critics did not like it.

Chad Alligood, curator of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art; Kristin Fleischmann, director of public projects at Pulitzer Arts Foundation; and Jerry Saltz, senior art critic for New York Magazine, were especially tough on the two-dimensional category finalists.

## CRISTIN TIERNEY



“Portraits of Light and Shadow” by Joao Paulo Goncalves, displayed at DeVos Place Convention Center. (Sept. 28, 2016)

“**Portraits of Light and Shadow**” has been very popular with the public — but not so much with Saltz.

“Honestly, I thought this only was cool craft. Sorry,” he said.

Some of the criticism was simple, but much of it had depth — often surrounding the perceived message in the artwork. Fleischmann, in particular, took issue with “**Protect and Serve**,” a public vote finalist depicting 1930s policemen.



“Protect and Serve” by Andrew Woodstock, a two-dimensional entry in ArtPrize Eight displayed at The B.O.B. (Oct. 2, 2016)

“I don’t think a bunch of white men on motorcyclists aggressively looking at you should be the embodiment of what our police should stand for,” said Fleischmann, who lives in St. Louis.

But the feedback wasn’t all negative. The experts were especially fond of two pieces at SiTE:LAB: **250 prepared ac-motors, 325kg roof laths, 1.0km rope** (a public vote finalist) and **Hybrid Structures** (a juror’s finalist).

## CRISTIN TIERNEY

They also enjoyed **This Space is Not Abandoned**, a transformed warehouse in the Roosevelt Park neighborhood. It's been taken over by local artists to explore themes of race and identity.



"This Space is Not Abandoned," an installation entry by Cultura Collective in the Roosevelt Park neighborhood.

"It felt like it had life. The work came from the community, it's supported by the community. And I thought it was a really beautiful project," Fleischmann said of the work, which is a finalist for a juried award.

And while the trio didn't always agree about the works of art, they all gave a glowing review to the competition that brought them together.

"I think it's the best of its kind in the world. I think that you help save Grand Rapids with this institution. I think this institution gives back more than it takes," Saltz told 24 Hour News 8 after the show.