



*Another Mission Tomorrow* by Douglas Rowe

The 2010 ASAA Juried International Aerospace Exhibition in San Diego is obviously one of ASAA's very best when judged by almost any measure. I do not envy those whose duty it was to evaluate and compare the entries in order to place them in order of excellence for awards. In general, I thought the selections were sound and deserving. However, the single work which touched me the most somehow escaped notice for an award by the judges. That work is the little gem of an oil painting "Another Mission Tomorrow" by Douglas Rowe.

I was drawn to this one by its mood, its serenity and the flood of thoughts it evoked.

I knew exactly what is being said here and could envision the entire surrounding scene in my mind's eye

as if I were to turn in all directions to view the scene. The quiet has descended on an East Anglia base as the surviving B-17s have been repaired, prepared and put to bed for the coming night. The thought hangs there..."will I be here to enjoy this serenity tomorrow night?" The contrast between this quiet time and the violence routinely faced in enemy skies day after day is powerful...and it is so simply stated.

The cropping is perfect. It holds the viewer in to soak up the reflected light on carefully selected surface details of the B-17. It is obvious that any area added left, right or below would have allowed the eye to escape the story.

And the entire story is told in reflected light...not the local color of a war weary B-17, but a perfect

demonstration of how that local color is altered by the color of light reflected from various directions from its surface.

I have always made the point that aviation is a very special world of light and reflected light rather than local color. Doug's painting is a perfect example of this. His careful and accurate handling of form through reflected light, controlled three dimensional quality and perceived aircraft detail all simply support the mood that tells the story.

Congratulations Doug! I can't wait to see more of your work.

Incidentally, Douglas Rowe is currently an ASAA Associate Member.

