

# Eric Jiaju Lee

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## **JUROR AND CURATOR STATEMENT:**

I would like to thank Rowayton Arts Center for inviting me to jury and curate the “Big & Small” 2022 exhibition. I would also like to thank Meg, Lisa, Michael, Donna and Suzi for all their support in arranging and hanging the show.

I want to let every artist know that I truly enjoyed looking at every work of art. One of the greatest things about looking at art is that I have never seen the same original work of art twice! Every work is unique and individual. That is why it is a difficult task to rate and rank artwork for a juried exhibition. I approached this show with an attitude of respect and acknowledgement that every artwork is the result of a passion that often requires blood, sweat and tears. And yet the beauty of it is that all the hard work results in the joy of accomplishment and the appreciation of an audience. You have brought into the world something wonderful that no one has seen before!

As an artist myself, I understand that viewing and evaluating art is very subjective, so in jurying the work, I want everyone to know that my process of selection is not a definitive statement on the worth of a piece. I think it might be helpful to understand my strategy of selecting the awarded artwork. In keeping with the title and spirit of the show, I wanted to award big and small artwork, and also work in all mediums. Likewise, I wanted to select a variety of work within each medium whether it was abstract or realistic imagery.

When it came to curating the work, in some sections of walls in the gallery, there are showcases of artwork arranged according to medium or size. For example, the work in the “alcove” are all paintings that are abstract and realistic (with even a little bit of an animal theme). On the wall adjacent is an all-photography wall. The longest wall is showcasing mostly large work while in the corner by the front, there is a showcase of small work.

I want to thank every artist who participated in this exhibition. It is my belief that despite a lot of turmoil in the world today, art and creativity are even greater forces that bring all that is good into the world. Keep up the great work!