

In the Garden Show 2025

Juror Statement

On a crisp, bright winter day like the one on which I visited Rowayton Art Center, we crave the warm, earthy smells and colors of summer, when gardens are their height. The artists who contributed to this year's "In the Garden" manifest nature's energy, complexity, and beauty in their works across media. I appreciate that the artists did not limit themselves to the implicit appeal of gardens, where the shapes and colors of plantings are simply too lovely not to admire. Instead, their art moves beyond the expected to consider that gardens do not only glow with daytime sun but also suggest rich color and mystery in the moonlight, as in the photography of Andrea Letters; that a bird's calls can twitter across a canvas, as in the soundscape painting of Susan McHale; and that a floral fabric brushed with pigment reminds us that a garden is not simply botanically detailed but also abstract and layered, its contents translucent and ambiguous in frontality or scale, as in the work of Heide Follin. I commend the prize winners and the recipients of the honorable mentions – Karen Kent, Robert Lansden, Anne Tetenbaum, and Pamela Proctor – for their evocation of gardens in everything from oil and watercolor to monotype to mixed media, including such garden "finds" as pine needles and wasp paper. Kudos to each artist who submitted for their engagement with nature and for sharing those observations with the community who will enjoy this exhibition of the joys of the garden during this fallow season.



Judge's Bio

Amy Kurtz Lansing is the Curator at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, CT. A specialist in nineteenth and twentieth-century art, she has organized or co-organized an array of exhibitions on American paintings, sculpture and photography. Prior to her arrival at the Florence Griswold Museum, Kurtz Lansing worked in the Department of American Paintings and Sculpture at the Yale University Art Gallery.