

In the Garden

Juror's Statement

As spring begins in earnest, the experience of being surrounded by these sublime works in pale pinks and purples, rosy blushes, and warm whites, shepherds visitors along a rather pleasant path toward the change of seasons. The prompt for this exhibition, *In the Garden*, resonates from every wall, each of which are filled with the images we associate with the start of spring: flowers, colors, warmth, all those signs of new life we are witnessing develop incrementally as the days go by.

In making choices to select awards from among these artworks, I was impressed by the skill level demonstrated by the paintings, prints, photographs, and mixed media entries. It seemed to me that this was a welcome theme among the artist members here in the Rowayton Arts Center community in that it showcases many strengths. I loved the energy conveyed through variegated surface textures and patterns, bold gestural lines and demanding mark making alongside the subtle hush of stillness found in isolated spaces, delicate blossoms and petals and glimpsing a cache of eggs in a nest. While there are similarities among the subjects, there are also some unique talents that captured my attention. In some cases, I recognized the technical competence of capturing a subject's verisimilitude using a challenging medium through color and careful or minimal brushstrokes. I also noted those who took unique approaches that went beyond a more traditional representation of the subject, those which transcribed vibrancy more abstractly or interrogated the theme in an unexpected way. The selections are just a taste of the warm richness found among the artworks in this exhibition, all of which contribute to this sensorial experience as we welcome spring.



Judge's Bio

Kimberly Henrikson is the Executive Director at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking in Norwalk, CT as well as the President of the Print Club of New York and the editor for the International Print Club Societies newsletter. Previously, she ran her own art advisory business and held a senior position at Artstor, a non-profit organization that archives and distributes digital images.