

In the Garden

Judge's Statement

On a cold and dreary February Thursday, I was honored and delighted to be judging the Rowayton Arts Center members exhibition, "In the Garden." This all media exhibition of members' art work was designed to lift the spirits when the weather is otherwise fighting them, perfect for a dreary February Thursday.

Pamela Proctor and Dana Laird were perfect hosts, warmly welcoming me to the joyful exhibit that made me long to be digging in the dirt. But I had a job to do, and it wasn't easy. I found it challenging to find three works that rose above the others, especially when comparing photographs to paintings, watercolors to oils.



There were works that I connected to for different reasons. I loved the exquisitely rendered energetic roosters. The collage of figures with their heads in the trees was clever and apt. There were two small works by the same artist, one of a woman watering and the other of a fig, where the oil paint was handled so masterfully. There were works that were beautifully colored such as the potted geraniums on the blue background and works that were creatively conceived such as the bird's nests on the tic tac toe board.

Ultimately, I chose three works that were technically strong, but also expressed a sincere and creative connection with its subject. A harmonious palette and composition were also important. "Under the Trellis" particularly captured my imagination with its abstracted interpretation of the subject. I liked how the artist pushed the theme of the exhibition and, with various techniques, rendered an abstracted network of vines or roots (or seaweed?) that was at once challenging and beautiful.

Thank you to the artists, the wonderful volunteers who keep RAC running so smoothly and to Pamela and Dana for providing a bright spot in an otherwise mid-winters day.

Lee Findlay Potter

Judge's Bio

Lee Findlay Potter is the President of Lee Findlay Art, an art advisory service. She shares her network of artists, galleries and experts – cultivated from thirty years of experience directing David Findlay Jr Gallery in New York City – to help build collections, purchase art for homes and offices or sell artwork. leefindlayart.com