

Looking Up/Looking Down Show

Judge's Statement

As a juror for this diverse art exhibition, themed "Looking Up, Looking Down," I was very impressed with the range of thought-provoking interpretations of the theme, both on aesthetic and conceptual levels. The theme itself evokes a sense of exploration and introspection, urging the viewer to contemplate their relationship to the image; their place in the world; and the unexpected complexities of the human experience.



Throughout the selection process, I sought works that not only captured the literal aspects of looking up and looking down but also transcended the surface and delved into deeper layers of meaning. The artists exhibited exceptional skill in conveying their perspectives, emotions, and narratives through various mediums, including painting, photography, and mixed media.

In the works that I selected, I observed a rich diversity of interpretations and often interesting contradictions. Some artists chose to direct our gaze upward, inviting us to contemplate the infinite expanse of the sky and its potential for inspiration, hope, and spiritual contemplation. These works offered a respite from the daily routines, reminding us to look beyond ourselves and connect with something greater.

Conversely, other artists explored the act of looking down, urging us to examine the mundane aspects of our existence with renewed curiosity and empathy. Through their art, they encouraged us to appreciate the overlooked details; to find beauty in the ordinary; and to gain insights into hidden worlds that are rarely noticed or imagined worlds full of surprises.

And, in several of the works, both vantage points of looking both up and down were expressed through intricate and dynamic compositions. I found these works conceptually challenging and visually very inventive. The notion of looking up and down simultaneously reminds us of the expansive scope of our perception and encourages us to pay attention to a broader view of the worlds we live in. Also, in reframing our perspectives both literally and metaphorically, we are asked to reconsider our assumptions about the world around us.

In conclusion, the art showcased in this exhibition embodies the power of observation, contemplation, and imagination. Each piece invites us to engage in a dialogue with ourselves, the artists, and the world at large. I commend all the artists for their exceptional contributions and their ability to challenge, inspire, and expand our horizons. It is my hope that this exhibition will leave a meaningful impact on all who experience it, encouraging us to look up, look down, and discover the beauty that surrounds us every day. Anna Patalano, Juror

Judge's Bio

Anna Patalano is a visual artist, master teacher, curator, and managing director of the Greenwich Art Society. A former faculty member at the University of Texas/El Paso, Anna earned an MFA from Yale University, School of Art and a BFA from Tyler School of Art as well as attending the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture residency program. Through both her long teaching career and working with a non-profit art center, Anna has advocated for practicing artists and students. Her knowledge and experience have helped her produce innovative programming, exhibition, and career opportunities for hundreds of artists, students, and teachers. Several of the programs that she has created over the last 14 years have been possible through her fundraising efforts in both the public and private sectors, including state funding through CT Arts and private grants through the Ford Foundation and the Rudin Family Foundation. She has worked with private banks and investment funds such as Bessemer Trust and Northern Trust in support of community art exhibitions as well as with local hospitals. She has also worked with curators from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney, MOMA, the Guggenheim, and the Jewish Museum when they served as jurors for competitive exhibition opportunities for artists. Anna resides in Bronxville, NY and continues to nurture her own studio practice while supporting other artists as they evolve in their development.