

# Marine & Coastal Art Show 2025

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## Juror Statement

Thank you to the Rowayton Arts Center for the privilege of judging the 2025 Marine & Coastal Art Exhibition. It is always a pleasure to view both upcoming and seasoned artist submissions on a local level and to work with the RAC Board of Directors and Staff members.

Maritime art scenes have always presented a challenge to artist over the centuries and is uniquely challenging for several reasons, both technical and emotional. Movement and light, transparency and reflection, atmospheric perspective and complex ship structures and shapes.

Many artists struggle with balancing technical accuracy and expressive style. Additionally, much of maritime art is narrative storytelling reflecting adventure, danger, travel, trade, solitude and beauty.

In judging the work, I looked for excellence in composition, technique, originality and emotional impact as well as a strong sense of place.

To every artist who submitted, thank you for sharing your works. Congratulations to those awarded and great effort to those who didn't give up and pushed forward with the courage to participate.

## Judge's Bio

Michael Florio is the Director of the Maritime Arts Gallery, curating the finest marine art in Rowayton. In dealing with original works of art, Michael Florio has been a leading historian and authority on marine art and artifacts, with several decades of building important museum, institutional and private collections – including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mystic Seaport Museum and the Museum of the City of New York, among many others.

Michael has also been Director of Art for Lillian August, the Director of Quester Gallery, Director of Taylor and Graham Gallery.

