

# Photography & Sculpture Show

---

## Judge's Statement

I would like to thank the Rowayton Art Center for inviting me to serve as juror for the summer Photography and Sculpture exhibition.

It was a pleasure and an honor to peruse a broad range of photography and sculpture submissions. Overall, the artwork submitted was strong and selecting work for inclusion was, as to be expected, a difficult task. Artworks were chosen for a number of reasons such as execution, focus, clarity of intention, innovation, and a sense of trueness. As the French photographer and painter Jacques Henri Lartigue put it "photography, to me, is catching a moment which is passing, and which is true".



As this was a "blind submission process" without supporting materials such as artist statements to consider and contextualize, artwork was selected based on excellence and authenticity. This was refreshing and allowed me to focus completely on the work submitted without knowing anything about the artist, their training, passion, or background.

The majority of the submissions were inspired by travels, nature and in the most broad terms, the human spirit. There were very few works that took on urgent political, cultural issues. Flora and architecture were the most prevalent subjects and overall, the works in the show share a sense of presence, joy and awe.

I was especially drawn to works that, beyond technical prowess, found novel ways to breathe new life into the familiar, mundane and traditional subjects. Perspective, scale and ingenuity were some of the ways this was achieved with varied results. I wish to thank all the artists who submitted their artwork and best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

## Judge's Bio

Debbie Hesse, an award winning installation artist, curator and educator, brings communities together around social, cultural, political and environmental ideas and issues thru her unique mixed media installation art and innovative curatorial and community building platforms. In her artwork she creates parallel, hybrid, shifting environments that explore ideas about growth, materiality and the ethereal. Organic forms are reconfigured into map-like constructions that evoke meditative spaces both intimate and infinite. Some of her recent work has examined seaweed farming and local initiatives that address issues of food security and the environment.

Hesse holds a B.A. from Smith College, a Masters in Painting and Printmaking from University of New Mexico where she was a fellow at Tamarind Institute of Lithography. She has been a panelist and juror for many arts organizations including the Cultural Affairs Office for the City of New Haven, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and the Sea Grant Program at University of Connecticut. She is an independent curator, collaborator and art instigator who serves as Gallery Director/Curator/ Board Vice President at Ely Center of Contemporary Art after a fifteen-year tenure as Director of Artistic Services & Programs at the Arts Council of Greater New Haven where she developed community initiatives and curated over 200 exhibitions.