

RAC Masters Show 2025

Juror Statement

I am honored to jury the 2025 Rowayton Arts Center Masters Show. Thank you to Andrea Letters and her team for the opportunity. Jurying an exhibition comes with the joy and exhilaration of meeting new artists, alongside the challenge of curating in a contextual vacuum. Not initially knowing the artists gives me the opportunity to react visually and instinctively to their practices.

My goal for this year's RAC Masters is to create an exhibition with a broad range of genres and techniques with a cohesive presentation. The selection of 10 artists – chosen from a pool of 36 submissions – is comprised of photography, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

Ben Larrabee, honorary RAC Master, is represented by a suite of stunning black and white portraits of his wife and muse Trudie. On the other edge of the photography spectrum are poetic and mystical abstract landscapes by Bill Gore. Nina Nelson occupies the center of that range as a humorist exploring fictional narrative. Working on paper, Lisa Thoren offers pure abstraction with her striped creations; and Mindy Green's collages, rendered with fragments drawn from memory, represent a past era.

Painting commands the most square footage here. Kris Toohey's landscapes are rich with horizon lines and pink and orange saturated clouds. Other artworks include Ira Hara's richly detailed, imagined lands from afar; Barbara Shapiro's black and white portraits of predominately female figures; and Carol Young's rural settings of barns and farmhouses in jewel-like hues.

Rounding out the exhibition is George Radwan's collection of miniature doors. The sculptures are made from concrete, stone and other materials, and inspired by real doors glimpsed from around the world.

Judge's Bio

Susan Eisner Eley is the owner and director of Susan Eley Fine Art in Hudson, NY. Previously, she was an editor for national and regional publications featuring articles on fine art, dance and travel. Susan also worked in public relations and education at the Morgan Library & Museum, NY, the Mayor's Art Commission of the City of New York and interned at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy. Learn more at susaneleyfineart.com

