

Abstraction 2026

Juror Statement

What is Realism? Merriam-Webster defines it as “the theory or practice of fidelity in art and literature to nature or to real life and to accurate representation without idealization.” Yet realism, in its truest sense, extends beyond mere accuracy. It begins with careful observation, but it deepens through interpretation, perception, and intention.



To me, Realism exists in many tiers. It is not a single fixed standard, but a spectrum shaped by the artist’s way of seeing and understanding the world. For this exhibition, I explored the diverse ways artists approach the idea of Realism. What emerged was the realization that realism is not only about replicating what we see—it is about revealing how we see. It was hard to choose between each artist's unique vision on what the term Realism meant to them. Ultimately, I chose based on mimesis, emotion, and the quality of light in the painting.

In this way, the philosophy and definition of realism in art ultimately resides in the eye of the beholder, where perception transforms observation into meaning.

Felicia Feldman was born in Taegu, South Korea. Felicia has a Master’s in Fine Arts (Painting) from the New York Academy of Art, a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts (Painting) from the Maryland Institute College of Art. During her education, she completed several independent studies and classes with renowned artists, including Odd Nerdrum, Steven Assael, Noah Buchanan, Vincent Desiderio and Alan Feltus. She has extensive teaching experience, having taught beginner to advanced students for 13 years at the Long Island Academy of Fine Arts. After moving to Connecticut, Felicia also began teaching at Rowayton Arts Center and Silvermine Arts Center. She currently resides in Greenwich, CT.