

Judge's Statement

I would like to sincerely thank Eunice Roy, and everyone at the Rowayton Arts Center for asking me to be the juror for the 2022 Spring Juried Exhibition. I had the great pleasure of judging another RAC exhibition a couple of years ago, where I got to meet the wonderful people and artists who make the shows here possible. I'm honored to have been asked back.

Once again, the high caliber of submissions for this show made my job enjoyable, but also quite difficult. From the hundreds of entries, I was to select no more than 90 pieces for the show (roughly 25% of the total entries). If the gallery could accommodate additional works, I would have happily chosen more.

Though my own work often gravitates to realism, and figurative subjects, I strove to select pieces which exhibit a wide range of successful artistic choices: subject matter, style, media, technique, palette, presentation, etc. I feel it shouldn't matter what type of art a juror personally prefers, they should be able to objectively discern and appreciate quality work in any form, and select accordingly. "Good" Art is... good, regardless of who is looking at it.

I hope I have succeeded in building a show which contains not only a fair cross section of works from those submitted, but also the most compelling and technically skillful. Many of my selections came down to choosing what I felt was the better of two or more very similar "good" submissions. I feel that a great deal of making art is about the craft, that philosophy played into my selections as well. MANY of the artists represented here are exceptionally skilled and talented, which becomes obvious after viewing their work.

In addition to selecting the works for the show, I also requested the opportunity to lay out the works in the gallery. With a few exceptions (due to space concerns), I've tried to integrate the works in such a way as to allow them to relate or "speak" to one another in the space. To me, the experience of a show should make visual sense, rather than being a hodgepodge of disassociated works. There should be a flow, that leads you through the gallery. Again, I hope I was successful.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate all of the artists who were accepted to the exhibition, and most especially those I selected to be prize winners. There were so many exceptional works, but so few prizes to give out. Those of you who did not win this time, please know that there are dozens of pieces deserving of recognition. All of the works are great, and I'm inspired and humbled by your creativity and talent.

All the best,
Greg Shea

Greg Shea is an award-winning artist and craftsman with diverse creative interests including drawing and painting, portraiture, illustration, photography, relief printmaking, sculpture, calligraphy and illumination, woodworking plus more. For over twenty years, Greg has worked at the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, CT, where he is the Senior Museum Preparator.

