

2025-26 Flat File Program

Juror's Statement

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What an honor it has been to serve as juror for this year's Flat File Program at Arlene's. The experience of reviewing so many thoughtful and inventive submissions reminded me just how vibrant and diverse our regional art community truly is. Every piece told its own quiet story — of persistence, experimentation, and devotion to craft — and together they form a chorus of creative voices that speak beautifully to the times we live in.

Curating this collection was both a challenge and a joy. I found myself drawn to works that revealed sensitivity to materials, a clear sense of intent, and the courage to explore beyond the familiar. The final selection represents a balance of styles and perspectives, from the poetic to the playful, all unified by authenticity of vision.

I'm continually inspired by the sense of community that thrives around Arlene's — a place where artists of all levels support, encourage, and challenge one another. Embracing this local network of painters, printmakers, and makers feels more vital than ever. This exhibition celebrates that spirit — the way creative energy circulates, connects us, and keeps our local arts scene alive and growing.

It's wonderful that the Flat File collection can now be explored online, but I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to come to the opening reception, meet the artists, and experience the work in person. There's nothing quite like standing before an original — its texture, scale, and presence tell a story that can't be translated through a screen.

The beauty of the Flat File Program is that it lives on for a full year — from October 2025 through August 2026 — giving plenty of time to revisit, reflect, and perhaps even take home a piece that continues to speak to you.