

REGIONAL JURIED SPRING OPEN
EXHIBITION
MARCH 30-APRIL 26
2025

Dear Artists,

The world has changed dramatically in the last five years. I learned yesterday that a major department store in downtown Philadelphia had closed. Alongside this fact is the struggle that arts education has been experiencing in Philadelphia. I think about how the art world today has come to rely upon digital images and virtual experience. Instead of dressing rooms, racks of clothes with fabrics to touch, shopping bags, and human touch, we have usernames, shipping, tracking, return labels, doorbells, and a lot of delivery drivers.

My first round of decisions for this exhibition required hours of looking at a screen. I know for you it required creating digital images and submitting through an online portal. This can feel very unnatural! I am grateful for this technology, but it is no substitute for the experience of beholding each artwork created in this exhibition. Yesterday my watch let me know I had clocked over 7000 steps. Most of them were walking between the gallery spaces and stepping back, forward, and around works of art. I needed to be with the work, to take the time, to sense your hand, your eye, your idea, and your heart in the material before me. There is no substitute, no virtual experience, that can compare.

The quality of craftsmanship and vision you bring reassures my faith in art making. Thank you for the time and the care that you have given to your work. It matters. Yesterday your work changed how I see the world. It has the power to change the perspectives of all who experience it. Continue to show it. Thank you to the Wayne Art Center for the honor of asking me to jury, thank you to all who support the Wayne Art Center's artists, especially the families who tolerate the messes, and a personal thank you to Pam McLean-Parker and Nancy Campbell.

Sincerely,

Christine Lafuente

March 30, 2025

Christine Lafuente's Exhibition, ***All the Blooms You Are***, opens on April 11, 2025 at Somerville Manning Gallery in Greenville, Delaware.