

The Artist's Garden

January 9 – February 20, 2026

Downstairs Mile Brook Gallery

Gardens have long been a source of inspiration cultivated spaces where nature and creativity intertwine. The Artist's Garden invites works that celebrate the beauty, symbolism, and personal meaning of gardens. From lush florals to quiet corners, cultivated plots to imagined landscapes, this exhibition reflects on how artists see and interpret the garden as a place of growth, reflection, and renewal.

Open to: All Members

Juror: [Stephanie Birdsall](#)

Prizes: 1st Place \$300
 2nd Place \$200
 3rd Place \$100

Individual and Associate artist entry fee: \$25 for 1 piece, \$10 for each addition. Artists may submit up to 4 pieces total.

Elected Artist entry fee: \$30 to enter. May enter up to 4 pieces total.

Receiving Dates: Saturday & Sunday, Jan 3-4, 2026, 10am – 5pm each day.

Acceptance List will be posted on the website, lymeartassociation.org by 5pm on Dec 19, 2025

Removal Dates: Saturday & Sunday, Feb 21-22, 2026, 10am – 5pm each day.

Opening Reception: Sunday, Jan 11, 2026, 2-4 PM

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- You must be a member of LAA to submit. Membership must be current.
- All art must be representational in nature. Interpretive, conceptual, or experimental work is acceptable, so long as representational elements remain (i.e., a horizon line, suggestion of a figure or still life, etc.).
- All work must be for sale, be framed or gallery wrapped (edges must be finished), signed on front or back and wired for hanging (no sawtooth hangers). Work must look professional in presentation.
- **SIZE LIMITATIONS - nothing larger than 48" in either direction.**
- Work must be original in concept and created in the last 3 years.
- Photographs, off-set lithographs, and other prints made using xerographic, digital, or photographic processes will not be considered unless outlined in the prospectus. Hand pulled prints (etc, relief, monotype, intaglio) are allowed.
- **Information for Sculptors:**
 - o Sculptures must be no more than 80" vertically, 36" and 36" deep and must weigh less than 100 lbs
 - o Sculpture submissions may be submitted online 1 week before the drop off date if preferred. To do this please use the online submission form for sculptors.
 - o <https://lymeartassociation.org/sculpture-artwork-entry-form/>
 - o Early online submissions for sculptors are optional. If you prefer to drop off work in person you may do so in-person during receiving weekend.
- Work that has been shown at LAA in a previous juried exhibition or work that was created under tutelage may not be submitted.
- All work will be juried with no guarantees. LAA reserves the right to not include any piece submitted for entry.

- NO WET PAINTINGS!
- LAA reserves the right to rent the gallery for events and to move work, if necessary, for these events. While the utmost care will be taken in handling all works, the LAA, its directors and agents assume no liability for damage, loss, or theft of submitted work. All artists are responsible for insuring their own work.
- Artists agree to commit accepted work for the duration of the exhibition.
- Artwork left at LAA for more than 90 days after the end of the exhibition period will become the property of LAA
- Artwork submitted for an exhibition at LAA may be photographed by LAA staff for marketing or inventorying purposes.
- The submission of work to the exhibition constitutes an agreement on the part of the artist or artist's agent to these conditions

TERMS AND CONDITIONS for SALE OF ARTWORK: Checks and credit card payment for purchase of artwork, including CT sales tax, shall be made out to the LAA.

If artwork is sold, 40% of the sale price will be retained by the LAA and 60% of the sale price will be remitted to the artist by check from LAA. The LAA will retain and remit the sales tax. As a not-for-profit organization, the LAA provides the artist with an opportunity to exhibit but does not assume the role of an agent or representative.

About the juror

Stephanie Birdsall



Stephanie Birdsall received her formal training at the City and Guilds of London Art School in England. After graduation she spent time traveling through Europe honing her skills as a plein air painter. Upon her return to the United States, Stephanie continued her study under several top artists including: Richard Schmid, Nancy Guzik, David Leffel, and Sherrie McGraw.

In 2006, Stephanie was invited to join a group of painters under the tutelage of renowned artist Richard Schmid. This opportunity began an intense focus and rapid growth period. Painting for the last 14 years with Richard, and his wife Nancy Guzik and the others in this small group which has become known as the Putney Painters has provided invaluable support and inspiration.

Her work has garnered recognition and more than 60 major awards in national and international juried exhibitions. She has exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London, England, Bargemon in France and at the National Arts Club in New York. Among the awards she has received are Best in Show at the Bridgeport Museum of Arts and Science, the Grumbacher Gold Medallion Award, the Florence Gleseman Floral Exhibition, First and Second Place, Salmagundi Club, the Degas Pastel Society Exceptional Merit Award, the Connecticut Pastel Society Herman Margulies Award and the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club, John Manship Award. In 2004 her work was selected by the National Academy of the Arts for inclusion in the Arts for the Parks National Exhibition.

Stephanie and her work have been featured in popular publications such as International Artist Magazine, Southwest Art, Plein Air Magazine, Fine Art Connoisseur, and The Pastel Journal. Public Broadcasting station WGCU aired a special on her work in June of 2005 as part of their "Expressions" television series.

