

# Midwest Museum of American Art 45<sup>th</sup> Elkhart Juried Regional

## Juror's Statement

When asked by Brian Byrn, Director of Midwest Museum of American Art, to serve as a juror for the 45th Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibition I gladly accepted the opportunity. As this was my third time as a juror in as many decades, I knew what to expect and that it would be a great experience. I'll admit, the task of looking at hundreds of 2-D and 3-D works in a wide variety of styles, techniques and subjects can be a bit overwhelming and intimidating. But once the judging was finished, and awards presented, the 45th Elkhart Juried Regional didn't disappoint.

To say jurying the entries was challenging is an understatement. With the task of trimming a field of 380 pieces to 150, I had my work cut out for me. My approach for selecting what gets into a show is informed by my four decades in the art world. After an initial walk-through of the entries, I evaluated each piece on quality of execution, level of creativity, attention to formal elements like composition, perspective, and ultimately, whether the artist was successful in what they were trying to accomplish. The fact that 163 pieces made it into the show tells you everything about the quality of the work.

It's clear the reputation of this exhibition, and the MMAA, brings out the very best in the artists who apply. It was my privilege to jury the show and continue being a part of the Elkhart Juried Regional tradition. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Brian, Randy Roberts, and all the dedicated volunteers who made this exhibit possible. Their efforts made my experience truly enjoyable, and the exhibit an artistic triumph for the participants. Well done everyone!

### **Mark Ruschman**

Senior Curator of Art and Culture Emeritus  
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### **2023 STATISTICS**

Artists Entering 217  
Works Entered 380

Artists Accepted 147  
Works Accepted 164