

# Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum

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## Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum ANNOUNCES the NJ ARTS ANNUAL

GLASSBORO, NJ – Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum is excited to announce the opening of the 2025 New Jersey Arts Annual for Fine Art, presented in partnership with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, on view through August 2nd, 2025..

“We are very pleased to partner with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to present *Artist as Activist* for the 2025 Arts Annual,” said Mary Salvante, Director of the Museum. “This exhibition highlights contemporary artists from across the state who responded to concepts of activism through installation, painting, photography, and sculpture.”

“The State Arts Council is honored to support these New Jersey artists in sharing their creative visions and amazing talents,” said Allison Tratner, Executive Director of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. “We believe that, where there is art, there is freedom of expression, empathy and understanding, and cultural and civic pride.”

Our esteemed jurors, **Brittany Webb**, Evelyn and Will Kaplan Curator of 20th Century Art and the John Rhoden Collection, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), and **Dejay Duckett**, Director of Curatorial Services, African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP) selected artists from over 300 entries and include: **Catherine Allen, ShinYoung An, Ellis Angel, Ylvia Asal, Donna Bassin, Kristian Battell, Michael DalCerro, Kirstin Demer, Laura Frazure, Adam Gustavson, Ellen Hanauer, Sam Horowitz, Tony Khawam, Krystle Lemonias Christopher Lopez, Jazlyne Sabree, Chanika Svetvilas, Hui Tian, Alan Willoughby, and one artist who wished to remain anonymous.**

**Artist as Activist** presents works that are artistic responses to the concept of activism. The selected artists use their creative practices to challenge societal norms, raise awareness, and inspire audiences to engage critically with the world around them. The works address a broad spectrum of urgent topics—including environmental stewardship, immigration, health and well-being, political engagement, and more. Rather than employing overt or reactionary tactics, these artists adopt a more nuanced approach. Their work invites viewers to engage with complex issues on their terms, promoting personal reflection and dialogue rather than prescribing a singular viewpoint. Some artists use humor to disarm

and draw in the viewer, while others use ambiguity or conceptual forms to allow multiple interpretations. Scale is also used deliberately, amplifying the urgency of the challenges we face collectively. Ultimately, this exhibition presents art as a vehicle for advocacy—illuminating injustices, proposing alternatives, and envisioning change. Through emotion, experience, and truth, these artists seek to cultivate empathy, spark conversation, and inspire action.

The New Jersey Arts Annual is a unique series of exhibitions highlighting the State's visual and performing artists. In partnership with major museums around the state, one exhibition takes place each year, alternating between host institutions. These exhibitions are open to any artist currently living or working in New Jersey. The Arts Annual series is sponsored by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts. Since 1984, the New Jersey State Arts Council has co-sponsored the prestigious Arts Annual in keeping with its mission to encourage and foster public interest in the arts, promote freedom of expression in the arts, and to facilitate the inclusion of art in every building in New Jersey. To learn more about the Council, please visit [www.artscouncil.nj.gov](http://www.artscouncil.nj.gov).

Rowan University Art Gallery & Museum serves as a vibrant cultural destination for South New Jersey, serving the surrounding region. With a mission to provide a platform for discourse on best practices in contemporary art by professional artists, curators and scholars, the museum presents interdisciplinary art exhibitions, panel discussions, guest curatorial projects, and other public programming. As part of the largest university in South Jersey, the museum is committed to cultivating an inclusive environment that encourages dialogue between exhibiting artists, students, faculty, the general public, and other cultural institutions. Year-round programming is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

The gallery is located at 301 High Street in Glassboro, NJ. Admission to the gallery is free and open to the public. Regular gallery hours are Monday – Wednesday, 10 am to 5 pm; Thursday - Saturday, 10 am to 7 pm. Directions can be found on the gallery website. Free parking is available in the Mick Drive parking garage across from the gallery. For information, call 856-256-4521 or visit [www.rowan.edu/artgallery](http://www.rowan.edu/artgallery).

About the New Jersey State Council on the Arts: The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, created in 1966, is a division of the NJ Department of State. The Council was established to encourage and foster public interest in the arts; enlarge public and private resources devoted to the arts; promote freedom of expression in the arts; and facilitate the inclusion of art in every public building in New Jersey. The Council believes the arts are central to every element we value most in a modern society including: human understanding; cultural and civic pride; strong communities; excellent schools; lifelong learning; creative expression; and economic opportunity. To learn more about the Council, please visit [www.artscouncil.nj.gov](http://www.artscouncil.nj.gov).