

**Wes Sherman**  
**Juror Statement**  
**August 2022**

My first exposure to the medium of felt came through Joseph Beuys' art, and his many uses of felt (e.g. "Felt Suit," "Plight," and "Sled"), as well as Robert Morris' industrial felt abstract sculptures. This early exposure, more than twenty years ago, helped me see wool, and other soft materials, as a medium for rigorous artistic exploration.

The submissions for this exhibition presented many wonderful uses of felt. The first time through the entries I looked at everything and then took a long break—returning the next day. At that point, I selected the work that had stayed with me from the previous day. The next review was more difficult. I had to eliminate several really good works to fit the limited space within the gallery. At this point in the process, I asked myself: how does each piece relate to the term "contemporary" in the Center's name? I considered how the medium and the composition work together to support the artist's vision; how the objects contribute to the art community at large and to works in other media that are dealing with similar concepts. It is through these filters of observation that I approach any work of art. I think about how the work broadens a medium or idea, as well as how it contributes to art from a wider perspective.

I am very honored to have been asked to juror this exhibition. As an artist myself, I understand that art is a declaration of the self, a perspective on the world. It was a weighty responsibility to go into this process knowing I would need to eliminate more than half of the works presented. My goal was to present a coherent exhibition that demonstrates skill and successful execution through the lens of a contemporary vocabulary.