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Two new exhibitions open at Mystic Museum of Art

By Nancy Burns-Fusaro Sun staff writer

Oct 29, 2025



"Backwoods Country," undated, oil on canvas by Lester D. Boronda. Photo courtesy Mystic Museum of Art

MYSTIC — Two new exhibitions, one juried by Catherine Shotick, director of the Westerly Museum of American Impressionism, will open this week at the Mystic Museum of Art.

"Moving to Mystic," and "Going Places," open Friday at the Mystic Museum of Art, marking the culmination of the museum's yearlong institutional theme on the topic of "migration."

"Throughout history, migration has shaped civilizations and cultures — driven by necessity or opportunity, in solitude or together," said Director of Advancement Sara Leone. " 'Moving to Mystic' brings this human experience into focus through the lens of the artists who uprooted their lives to settle in Mystic, Connecticut, at the turn of the twentieth century."

A compelling exploration of the origins and evolution of the Mystic art colony, emerging within a shipbuilding and fishing community, the Mystic art colony defied artistic norms of its time," she added. "Rather than following the rigid and hierarchical path of traditional European academies, early colony members embraced artistic independence. They sought freedom not only from the constraints of the Academy, but also from the growing pressures of industrialized urban life."

In Mystic, they found a place where nature, camaraderie, and creative autonomy could flourish, she said. Drawing from the museum's permanent collection, as well as loans from private collectors and the Noank Historical Society, "Moving to Mystic" features work by early and founding members, as well as second-generation artists.

"The show also honors local talents born in Mystic and those who came for

unrelated opportunities but became deeply embedded in the colony's artistic fabric," she said.

"Moving to Mystic" provides a vivid visual narrative of the individuals who built and sustained the Mystic art colony.

"Their collective decision to step away from commercial and institutional art centers in favor of collaboration and creative freedom created a lasting artistic legacy—one that continues to define Mystic's cultural identity today," Leone said.

"Going Places," is the museum's "dynamic juried exhibition" that brings together a wide range of contemporary artists, all responding to the personal and collective experiences of migration, movement, and transformation.

"Going Places," juried by Shotick, draws from a highly competitive open call that invited artists to reflect on the many meanings of "migration." Submissions came from across the region and beyond, offering a wide lens on the act of going places—from family stories passed down through generations, to personal travel narratives, to reflections on displacement, assimilation, and belonging. Featuring diverse perspectives and media, the show includes painting, sculpture, photography, textiles, and mixed media works.

"Together, these pieces all reflect on what it means to move through space and time," Leone said.

The exhibitions open Oct. 31 and will run through to Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at the Mystic Museum of Art, 9 Water St., Mystic. Admission is

free. For more information, call 860-536-7601 or visit
www.MysticMuseumofArt.org

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