

Juror Biography: Susan Watts



Susan Watts is the owner of Olson-Larsen Galleries, a contemporary gallery and custom frame shop in Historic Valley Junction, West Des Moines. She oversees all operations of the gallery – managing the representation of 60 regional artists, working with a range of individual and corporate clients, coordinating major commissions, and curating gallery exhibitions. Susan is currently chair of the Community Support Advocates board of directors and formerly served on the Friends of Des Moines Parks and Artstop boards of directors. She plays an active role in Project Spaces, an initiative of the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, serves as co-chair of Historic Valley Junction’s Gallery Night committee, and is extensively involved in the Historic Valley Junction district.

Susan was the gallery manager at Olson-Larsen Galleries from 2003 to 2010, at which time she purchased the business. Susan came to the gallery after four years with the Salt Lake Art Center in Salt Lake City, where she served as coordinator of education and curatorial assistant. Susan has also been a freelance arts writer for regional and national publications throughout her career. She holds a BA with honors in art history and journalism from the University of Iowa.