MEET THE MENTORS:

ROSS BARBERA

ARTIST & EDUCATOR

www.rossbarbera.com

ABOUT ROSS

Ross Barbera was born in 1950 in Brooklyn, New York. Raised in the city, he spent summers in Smithtown and Peakville, New York, where he developed a lasting connection to the natural landscape that continues to influence his work. He received his MFA in Painting from Pratt Institute in 1975 and began exhibiting at Razor Gallery in SoHo, New York City.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, his work was represented by Soghor, Leonard, and Associates (OK Harris Annex) in lower Manhattan, and he also exhibited at the Jean Lumbard Gallery in New York and the Clark Whitney Gallery in Massachusetts. His work has been widely shown in galleries and juried exhibitions across the United States.

Barbera has received numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Painting Fellowship, a New York State CAPS Fellowship, and grants and honors from institutions such as the Hillwood Art Museum. Recent awards include Best in Show at the Setauket Artists 39th Annual Exhibition (2019), Best in Show at the Setauket Artists Deepwells Exhibition (2023), and First Place at The Atelier's 3rd Annual Invitational Exhibition (2021).

From 1990 to 2020, he was a full-time faculty member in the Department of Art and Design at St. John's University, serving as department chair from 2010 to 2013, and retiring as Associate Professor in 2020. He continues to maintain an active painting practice in acrylic and watercolor on paper, canvas, and raw Kona cotton, focusing on landscape imagery from Rocky Mountain National Park, Zion National Park, and the Northeast. He exhibits regularly and teaches watercolor at all levels at the Art League of Long Island.