

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The benefits of membership are many:

For your dues you will receive a **membership card**, our virtual **newsletters** and a virtual **full color catalog** (hard copy available for purchase) of our national exhibition. In addition, you will be eligible to apply to the following shows: National Exhibition, Salon Show, Eastern OR Western Regional Exhibition, and 3 Online Showcases. We also have exclusive pricing on art products from our featured sponsors throughout the year. You will have access to our lunch and learn webinars featuring well known artists at no extra cost along with our museum road trips.

We have a **member directory** online where collectors may search our artists. It is a **searchable database with many options for finding artists from their style to their location**.

In addition you may **network** with our over 3500 artists including 205 signature members and 70 master members.

Ways that you can get involved!

OPA Paint Outs

Plein Air Paint Outs have been a tradition at Oil Painters of America since 2005. Paint Outs have experienced rave reviews from members and nonmembers alike who enjoy the many benefits that paint out participation has to offer.

Experience the joy of painting one of North America's breathtaking vistas along with fellow artists. Paint Outs also provide an opportunity to network with colleagues as well as make new friends.

OPA members are invited to host paint out events each year. Reservations to host a Paint Out begin May 1 and end on June 30. If you are interested in hosting a Paint Out event, visit our website.

Critique Services

Oil Painters of America offers artists the opportunity to have one's work critiqued by a seasoned professional for a nominal fee. Critiques are done by one of OPA's Signature or Master Signature members who have volunteered their knowledge, experience and passion for oil painting to assist artists who are looking for constructive feedback and ways to improve their craft.

Website

To get the most out of your membership, please take a moment to visit our website at www.oilpaintersofamerica.com, our most valuable tool for communicating with our members. Our website is the door to accessing all of the information.

Lunch and Learn Webinars

OPA offers monthly webinars with well-known artists sharing their artistic knowledge and talent with all who are interested. These webinars normally cost \$15 each but are free for OPA members.

Brushstrokes Newsletter

The Brushstrokes newsletter keeps you informed of the organization's and our members' activities in a beautiful full color online publication; one newsletter for every season.

National Exhibition Catalog

Every year OPA members will receive access to our virtual beautiful color catalog featuring the paintings being exhibited in the National Juried Exhibition. This catalog features a picture of each painting, as well as a list of all exhibitors and current members. A hard copy will be available for purchase to our members.

Scholarships

Oil Painters of America offers six scholarships a year. Four \$500 scholarships appropriately named after OPA's founding member, Shirl Smithson. The Shirl Smithson Memorial Scholarships are open to all current Associate members. One scholarship is designated specifically for a student member who is currently enrolled as a full-time student.

The Susanna Aitchison MacSporran Memorial Scholarship is for artists with a strong desire to pursue or continue a career in portraiture painting. The recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship to further their artistic education.

The Betty Schmidt Memorial Scholarship was established by OPA's Board of Directors to honor her long-time commitment to OPA. This \$500 scholarship is for artists who are age 55 and older and are in their early developmental stages of their painting career.

Workshops

Looking for a workshop, demonstration or class to attend in your area or out of state? With over 3,500 artist members, OPA is by far the best place to begin your search! Whether you are new to painting or a serious professional, you can find a workshop, demonstration or class that fits your needs.

Discounts

OPA members receive exclusive discounts on products and services from many of our featured vendors throughout the year. Masterpak, Airfloat, and ShipandInsure are just a few.

Membership Types

Student members are individuals who are ages 14 – 23 and have interests in representational oil painting. They receive the same benefits as an associate member, except they do not have the right to vote or to hold office.

Associate members are artists who paint in oils in the representational style who reside in North America. *All members begin as an Associate.*

Signature members (OPA) are artists who consistently demonstrate high quality work. There are two ways to become eligible:

Option 1: Automatic Signature Status

Within an eight year period, a member must have exhibited in either 1.) four national OPA shows; OR 2.) three national OPA shows and three regional or salon shows. (Regional and Salon shows must be within the last five years.) If these requirements are met, Signature Member status will be conferred with no further evaluation. However, qualified members must still submit an application between June 1 and October 15 for approval at the December board meeting.

Option 2: Committee Review

Over an indefinite period of time, members must have exhibited in 1.) three national OPA shows; OR 2.) two national OPA shows and three OPA regional or salon shows. (Regional and salon shows must be within the last five years.) Members who have met these requirements are qualified to submit for Signature status between June 1 and October 15 for consideration at the December board meeting.

Master Signature members (OPAM) are artists who have exhibited exceptional merit in their work and accomplishment in the field of art. Signature members may apply before September 1 for review and approval by the OPA Board of Directors.

Collectors' Circle Members are a community of art lovers and collectors interested in meeting like-minded people who share their enthusiasm for the arts and desire to support artists.

International Supporters are artists living abroad who do not meet the residence requirements. These member artists receive membership benefits but are not eligible to apply for any regional or national exhibitions.

Gallery members are galleries who represent at least 1 OPA member's work at all times.