



Presents The 2025 Western Regional Juried Exhibition Of Traditional Oils

OPA's 2025 Western Regional Exhibition is being hosted by Illume Gallery West, located in Philipsburg, Montana, July 11 through August 15, 2025. The Opening Reception will be held on Friday, July 11, from 5:30 to 9:00 pm with the awards presentation at 7:00 pm.

OPA is pleased to return to Illume Gallery West for another outstanding exhibition. Philipsburg is a 19th century mining town located in the heart of Montana's sapphire country, where visitors pan for sapphires or tour a nearby ghost town. You may also enjoy fishing, boating, birding, hiking and antiquing while in the area, not to mention the incredible lake scenery for painting.

Our goal is to assemble approximately 100 of the finest representational oil paintings. The focus in the jurying process will be to select paintings that show the highest quality in draftsmanship, color, and composition, emphasizing a diversity in representational style and subject matter.

The total awards will be approximately \$11,500 in cash and merchandise, including a \$4,000 Best In Show.

Artists eligible to compete are current 2025 OPA members who are citizens of the United States, Canada and Mexico who reside in Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Manitoba, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Oklahoma, Oregon, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Yukon Territories, and all of Mexico.

Members who are citizens, both natural born or otherwise, of the United States, Canada, or Mexico are eligible to participate regardless of where they live. For sake of convenience, citizens who reside elsewhere will compete in the region that corresponds with their last place of residence within North America.

Nonresident aliens who currently live in the above states of the United States, Canada or Mexico, may also be eligible to participate. Please see eligibility details on the OPA website.

Entry Guidelines

SUBMISSIONS DUE: Thursday, June 5, 2025

- Minimum canvas size: **192 square inches (unframed)**.
- Maximum canvas size: **1,200 square inches (unframed)**.
- Measure dimensions height x width. Example: 12" height x 16" width = 192 square in. 30" height x 40" width = 1,200 sq. in.
- Maximum entries three (3). However only one (1) painting may be accepted.
- Paintings must be created on one singular flat substrate and framed and wired for hanging. Multiples are unacceptable – i.e., diptychs, triptychs.
- The substrate must not exceed the maximum size set forth in the prospectus. Be sure to read each prospectus carefully, as the acceptable size of the substrate changes depending on the gallery/museum.
- Copyright infringement of any kind is unacceptable. It is unethical and against OPA policy for artists to submit work created from another person's drawing/painting/photo or other artwork. Purchased reference material that transfers copyright to the artist is unacceptable.
- Digital apps and programs may be used for cropping your reference photos, etc., but no digital, mechanical, photo, or other transferring to the substrate of any kind is acceptable. You must draw and/or paint the image on your substrate yourself.
- Your submission must be originally conceived: your own reference, your own drawing, your own concept and must have been self-painted.
- No direct copies of stock images, historic photos, or of any reference to which you do not hold total copyright are allowed. You must be able to provide signed documentation of total copyright should OPA request.
- Paintings created in an instructional setting, including but not limited to workshops and art classes are not considered original artwork. A painting created from a group photo shoot set-up by another artist is not considered original artwork. Paintings created in an open studio where artists share the model are acceptable provided there was no instruction being given.
- Painting must have been created within the last 3 years.
- An artist may not submit a painting for a Regional Exhibition that has previously been accepted into a Regional Exhibition, Salon Show or an OPA National Exhibition.
- The artist retains copyright to his/her image(s). However, accepted images do become part of OPA archives and may be used for future OPA event promotion.
- All work must be for sale. No NFS. Paintings that do not reflect the artist's current pricing structure may be disqualified from the competition.
- An artist who withdraws an entry after acceptance into the exhibition shall not be eligible to enter any OPA exhibitions for the next two years.

Substrate and Framing Guidelines

ACCEPTABLE SUBSTRATES: Any primed, smooth, flat substrates including: primed canvas or linen, stretched or on a panel, wood, gesso board, acrylic gessoed dibond, aluminum, aluminum composite panel. Acrylic primer is acceptable. Oil primed paper is acceptable if adhered with archival adhesive to a proper archival substrate. Paintings should NOT require being placed under glass.

UNACCEPTABLE SUBSTRATES: Any textured surface including decorative copper, tooled aluminum, natural stone, barn wood or three-dimensional objects. A substrate containing any printed image or photograph is prohibited regardless of whether it is your own or someone else's image/photograph. Paintings should NOT require being placed under glass.

ACCEPTABLE FRAMING: All paintings must be framed and wired for hanging. When framing deep-edged paintings (museum/gallery wrap canvas or deep board), the frame must be of adequate depth that the substrate does not extend more than half an inch beyond the back of the frame. Floater frames are acceptable for paintings on museum/gallery wrap canvas or deep board panels.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE PAINTING CRITERIA, PLEASE VISIT THE OPA WEBSITE. Questions should be emailed to: mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com, or call 815-356-5987.

Entry Information

Online Submissions — Deadline: Thursday, June 5

Electronic applications will be accepted beginning Monday, March 17. Canvas size 192 square inches to 1,200 square inches (unframed). Maximum file size is 5mb. Please upload a JPG, JPEG, PNG or HEIC with a filename that only contains alphanumeric characters. The minimum size for image uploads is 1400 pixels (px) in the longest dimension. However, for best results we recommend your image size be closer to the maximum size of 4000 pixels in the longest dimension.

To submit your electronic application and images, please go directly to: <http://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com> and look for OPA's 2025 Western Regional Exhibition.

Jurying Fees

The jurying fee for entries is: first painting is \$35.00, second painting is \$15.00 and third painting is \$10. Only one painting can be accepted. Electronic payment may be made by credit card or through Stripe. **No e-checks will be accepted.**

Membership

You must be a paid member through December 31, 2025 at a cost of **\$80.00**. If you are not a member of OPA you must apply and be accepted before the system will allow you to enter the exhibition. To apply for membership go to the OPA website. If you are a renewing member and have not paid your dues for 2025 the system will not accept your exhibition entry. To renew your membership, go to the OPA website.

Sales Commission

Artists will receive 50% of sale price with other 50% going to the gallery and OPA. Please take this into consideration when setting your price. All work that is submitted must be for sale. No NFS. Paintings must be priced in accordance with the artist's current pricing structure.

Delivery and Return of Accepted Work

Delivery for Local Artists: Deliver uncrated paintings to Illume Gallery West, 130 E. Broadway St., Philipsburg, MT 59858 Tuesday, June 24 to Friday, July 4. Hand delivered work may be picked up at the completion of the exhibition. Please call to schedule a pickup time.

Out of Town Artists: ship to Illume Gallery West, 130 E. Broadway St., Philipsburg, MT 59858 Tuesday, to arrive June 24 to Friday, July 4.

Handling Fee: Out of Town Artists must pay a \$25.00 fee online prior to their painting being hung. This fee covers the expense of uncrating, storage of crates, re-crating and contacting your shipper for return. Artist may elect to include a return shipping label with their painting OR may email the label directly to Illume Gallery West. **OPA will waive the uncrating fee for artists who use a commercially manufactured artist's/strong box such as a StrongBox™ by Airfloat Systems, or similar brands, like Masterpak, Uline, or a FedEx Premium Art Box (not a FedEx Large Frame Box).** **NOTE: Home Depot boxes are NOT included in the list of boxes for which the fee will be waived.** Artists who do not use one of these special boxes are required to remit the \$25 prior to hanging of the painting. Strong boxes will be returned to the artists at the conclusion of the show at the artist's expense.

Shipments from OUTSIDE the US must be shipped "FREE DOMICILE" or will **not be accepted.**

Notification will be posted on the OPA website Wednesday, June 18.

Calendar Checklist

June 5

Deadline for submissions

June 18

Acceptance notification posted on the OPA website

June 24 - July 4

Shipped artwork to arrive at Illume Gallery West

June 24 - July 4

Hand delivered artwork to arrive at Illume Gallery West

July 11

Opening Reception: for collectors, press, exhibiting artists and the public from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Awards Presentation:

announcement of winners will take place at 7:00 p.m.

July 11 - August 15

Show will be open for viewing. See below for gallery hours

After August 15
By appointment

Local Artists: pick up paintings. If not removed, a \$10 per day storage fee will be charged.

Illume Gallery West thanks you for your cooperation.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Saturday
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday
Closed

Liabilities and Responsibilities

Oil Painters of America and Illume Gallery West will not be responsible for loss or damage of any artwork, no matter what the cause. By submitting artwork to this exhibition, each artist will be deemed to have concurred with this agreement. Artists pay for shipping both ways. We suggest that you provide insurance to cover the full value of the artwork while in transit.

Good Luck and Good Painting!