



2025 The Virtuosos of the OPA Exhibition Of Traditional Oils

Oil Painters of America is pleased to present the 2025 The Virtuosos of the OPA Exhibition of Traditional Oils”, an exhibition presented specifically to showcase Master Signature and Signature members. This exhibition will be hosted by Ballard’s Fine Art Gallery, in Sheridan, Wyoming, November 7 through December 19, 2025, with the opening reception being held on Friday, November 7 from 4 pm to 7 pm.

The rustic town of Sheridan is known for its western heritage and culture and is located near the majestic Bighorn Mountain Range. Hiking, fishing and golfing are available close to Sheridan. Visitors are welcome at such interesting places as the Trail End State Historic Site and King’s Saddlery Museum, and there is an abundance of varied wildlife in the Tongue River Canyon, Kendrick Park and along Goose Creek.

Our intent is to present over 50 of the finest paintings of our Signature and Master Signature artists. 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.

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded as well as 5 Awards of Excellence.

The awarding juror will renowned artist Daniel Keys OPAM.

Current Signature members may submit up to 3 paintings for jurying into the exhibition (only one painting can be accepted).

Entry Guidelines

SUBMISSIONS DUE: Friday, September 5, 2025

- Canvas size: Maximum size not to exceed **1,200 square inches** (unframed). Example: 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 of any kind.
- 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: Friday, September 5

Electronic applications will be accepted July 1 through September 5, 2025. Maximum canvas size may not exceed 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.

Jurying Fees - Signature Members

The jurying fee for Signature member 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.**

Participation Fees

Master Signature members will pay a participation fee of \$100.

Signature members will pay a participation fee of \$50.

Membership

Signature Members must be paid members through December 31, 2025 to enter.

Sales Commission

Sales commission is as follows: 40% to the gallery, 10% to OPA and 50% to the artist for all paintings sold. 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 of Accepted Work

Delivery for Local Artists: deliver uncrated painting to Ballard's Fine Art Gallery, 23 South Main St., Sheridan, Wyoming, October 13 - 24.

Out of Town Artists: ship to Ballard's Fine Art Gallery, 23 South Main Street, Sheridan, WY 82801, to arrive October 13 - 24.

Shipping

Artists are responsible for shipping their paintings to and from the exhibition.

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

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 The Centerpiece Gallery. **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. **PLEASE, NO WOODEN CRATES!**

Notification will be posted on the OPA website: Jury results posted on OPA website Friday, September 19.

Calendar Checklist

September 5

Deadline for submissions

September 19

Acceptance notification posted on the OPA website

October 13 to 24

Artists work to arrive

November 7

Opening Reception: for collectors, press, exhibiting artists and the public from 4 pm to 7 pm

Awards Presentation: announcement of winners will take place at 6 pm

November 7-December 19

Length of time show will be open for viewing. See below for gallery hours

December 20

Local Artists: removal of paintings by appointment. If not removed a storage fee will be charged.

GALLERY HOURS

Sunday - Wednesday
Closed

Thursday - Saturday
11 am - 4 pm

Liabilities and Responsibilities

Oil Painters of America and Ballard's Fine Art Gallery 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