

THIRTY-FIFTH NATIONAL EXHIBITION & CONVENTION

★ STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO ★



OPA NATIONAL WET PAINT COMPETITION & SALE

GUIDE

The OPA National Wet Paint Competition & Sale is an event held in conjunction with the Oil Painters of America's National Convention at the Steamboat Grand Hotel in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. All submitted paintings will be hung in the exhibition at the Steamboat Grand Hotel, and all are eligible for awards.

AWARDS There are two divisions for awards: Studio and Plein Air. All paintings are eligible for Awards of Excellence in what we call the Combined Division. First-place winners in Studio and Plein Air will receive automatic inclusion in next year's National Exhibition. Award winners will be announced at the Awards & Recognition Ceremony on Friday evening.

PAINTING DATES Tuesday-Thursday, May 26-28, 2026

**TURN IN ONE PAINTING, FRAMED AND WIRED,
WITH PAPERWORK FILLED OUT**

3:00-4:00pm on Thursday, May 28 in the Mountain View Foyer.

SALE Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30. *Open to the public.*

PAINTING PICK UP 5:00-5:30pm Saturday, May 30.

OPA Staff and volunteers will be available at the Steamboat Grand during registration hours to stamp canvases, answer your questions, provide a list of plein air painting locations, and help you set up in the studio. Participation Forms and Wall Tags are available in advance and at turn-in; fill them out to turn in with your painting.

Odorless Mineral Spirits will be available at the Steamboat Grand Hotel in the Studios. Bring your own container. A dump container is provided for used mineral spirits.

STUDIO DIVISION Studio artists are welcome to join us in our temporary studios at the Steamboat Grand Hotel, in the Burgess Creek and Spring Creek rooms. *Photographs may not be used.*

The model studios will have live models in costume, and the still life studios will be stocked with drapes, vessels, pottery, baskets, fruit, flowers, etc., and monitors will be there to assist. You can also bring your own props.

Modern solid-state lighting will illuminate models and still-life set-ups. Because lighting is limited, sharing may be required. You may bring your own lights and extension cords.

Studio hours: 8:00-4:00 on Wednesday and 8:00-3:00 on Thursday.

Please remember to tip the models and thank your monitors.

PLEIN AIR Artists may paint any subject or scene in the state of Colorado; the subject matter and artist must both be outdoors. A list of good painting locations will be available at the Registration desk. *Photographs may not be used.*

COMPETITION RULES

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY Artists with full convention registration to the National Convention can participate in the Wet Paint Competition & Sale.

CANVASES MUST BE STAMPED before painting is begun. Get your blank canvases or panels stamped by an OPA representative at Registration during open hours starting at 3:00pm on Tuesday, May 26. You can get multiple canvases stamped. *Paintings without stamps will not be accepted.*

PLEIN AIR Plein air (i.e., open-air) paintings must be executed outdoors and from life. The painter and subject must be outdoors, in Colorado. *Photographs may not be used.*

STUDIO Artists must paint indoors; any subject matter is allowed, provided the subject matter and artist are indoors. *Photographs may not be used.*

PAINTING PERIOD Paintings must be started and completed between 3:00pm on Tuesday, May 26, and 3:00pm on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

MATERIALS REQUIREMENTS Oil paintings only, folks.

PAINTING SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Each eligible artist may submit one (1) painting to the competition.
2. Painting size must not exceed 320 square inches unframed. (For example: 16"x20" = 320 sq. in.)
3. The OPA stamp must be visible on the back of the canvas or panel.
4. The artist's name must be clearly written on the back of the painting.
5. Paintings must be framed and properly wired for hanging using D-rings and wire. *No gallery wrap, no sawtooth hangers.*
6. Paperwork: a completed Participation Form and Wall Tag must accompany each painting. Fill them out in advance to streamline dropoff.

PAINTING TURN-IN

Deliver paintings to the Steamboat Grand Hotel Mountain View Foyer between 3:00 and 4:00pm on Thursday, May 28. *OPA reserves the right to refuse any painting improperly framed or wired, or delivered without paperwork.*

PAINTING PICK-UP

Artists must pick up unsold paintings at the Steamboat Grand Hotel Mountain View Foyer between 5:00 and 5:30pm on Saturday, May 30. *Paintings not picked up will be considered donated to OPA.*

PROCEEDS FROM PAINTING SALES For any paintings sold, the division of proceeds will be: 70% to the Artist, 30% to Oil Painters of America.

LIABILITY Oil Painters of America and The Steamboat Grand Hotel assume no responsibility for theft or damage to artwork. Please note that artists are responsible for insuring their artwork.

