



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA®

CREATING COMMUNITY • ADVANCING SKILLS • ELEVATING EXCELLENCE

Oil Painters of America Show/Competition Submission Rules

OPA strives to maintain the highest ethical practices and levels of integrity in oil painting. **Only original paintings are acceptable for entry into OPA Exhibitions. They must be created by hand solely by the artist submitting the painting and be original in concept and design.**

- It is **NOT** allowed to use artificial Intelligence to generate a design or create the facsimile of a painting.
- It is **NOT** allowed to copy from photos or images that were not created by the artist, including stock images, historic photos, or of any reference to which the artist does not hold total copyright. Purchased reference material that transfers copyright to the artist is unacceptable.
- It is **NOT** allowed to use digital, photo, or other mechanical transference to the substrate of an image. The artist must draw and/or paint the image on the substrate themselves. Digital apps and programs may be used for cropping your reference photos, etc.
- It is **NOT** allowed to enter a painting created in a paid instructional setting such as a workshop or art class. Paintings created in an open studio where artists share the model are acceptable provided there was no instructions being given of any kind.
- It is **NOT** allowed to submit an image of a painting that does not represent the artist's final and completed artwork.
- 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.
- Paintings must have been created within the last **five (5) years**.
- A painting that has been accepted into an OPA National Exhibition may **NOT** be entered into any future OPA exhibition or Online Showcase.
- A painting that has been accepted into a physical OPA exhibition other than the OPA National **MAY** be entered into an OPA National Exhibition but may **NOT** be entered again into any other type of OPA exhibition or Online Showcase.
- A painting that has received an award or finalist designation in an Online Showcase **MAY** be entered into an OPA National Exhibition but may **NOT** be entered again into any other type of OPA exhibition or Online Showcase.

- A painting that has not been accepted into a physical OPA exhibition or has not received an award or finalist designation in an Online Showcase, **MAY** be resubmitted to any OPA show or Online Showcase.
- 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 submitted to physical OPA exhibitions must be for sale. No NFS. Paintings that do not reflect the artist's current pricing structure may be disqualified from the competition. Paintings submitted to the Online Showcase competition have the option to be for sale or not for sale.
- An artist who withdraws an entry after acceptance into a physical OPA exhibition shall not be eligible to enter any OPA exhibitions for the next two years.
- Awards will be sent to winners after the conclusion of the show. OPA is required by the IRS to issue and receive a W-9 form from all artists who win award monies of \$600 or more. (This does not apply to Canadian or Mexican entrants.)

Acceptable/Unacceptable

SUBSTRATES

- **ACCEPTABLE SUBSTRATES:** Any primed, smooth, flat substrates including primed canvas or linen, stretched or on a panel, wood, gesso board, acrylic gessoed dibond, aluminum, or aluminum composite panel. Acrylic primer is acceptable. Oil-primed paper is acceptable if adhered with archival adhesive to a proper archival substrate.
- **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.

MEDIUMS

- **ACCEPTABLE MEDIUMS:** Oil paints, alkyd resin, water-soluble oils, oil sticks/bars. Metal leaf (i.e.: gold, silver, etc.) is acceptable if it doesn't comprise more than 20 percent of the visible surface.
- **UNACCEPTABLE MEDIUMS:** Watercolor, gouache, acrylics, mixed media, Genesis paints, oil pastels.

FRAMING

- **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 so 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.

NORTH AMERICAN RESIDENCY

- North American residency is **required** of all Associate, Student, Student Associate, Signature and Master Signature members. It is **not required** of International Associate, Collectors Circle, and Gallery members.
- Citizens – both natural born or otherwise - of the United States, Canada, or Mexico, **qualify** for North American residency.
- Nonresident aliens who currently live in the United States, Canada, or Mexico **also qualify** if they have been physically present at the address provided to OPA for eight of the last twelve months and if the residency is their permanent domicile. A domicile is a fixed, permanent home to which an individual intends to return whenever absent.
- Nonresident aliens whose North American residency is in question will be asked to provide proof of residency, including employment history, references, and utility bills in the individual's name. Non-resident aliens falsifying claims of residency by providing an address in which they do not reside will be asked to resign from the organization. The decision of the Board is final.

Additional Online Showcase Rules and Policies

Unless otherwise noted, the above rules also apply to painting submissions to the Online Showcase competition. Framing rules do not apply to Online Showcase entries. Other rules and procedures unique to the Online Showcase are noted below.

- Associate and Student Associate members are eligible to enter all 3 Online Showcases which include the Spring, Summer and Fall competitions.
- Signature members are eligible to enter the Fall Online Showcase and will compete in their own category.
- International Associate members are eligible to enter the Spring Online Showcase and compete against other Associate and Student Associate member entrants.
- New members must apply for membership by the posted membership deadline or wait until the next online show.
- Artists may enter as many paintings as they would like. Each artist is only allowed to win one of the top thirteen awards.

- Artists may **NOT** enter paintings that have been accepted into other OPA physical exhibitions.
- A painting **MAY** be submitted to multiple Online Showcase competitions. However, once a painting has received an award or finalist designation in an Online Showcase it can no longer be submitted to an Online Showcase.
- You will not have to provide the painting physically, so sold paintings, and paintings no longer in your possession may be entered.
- Artists **MAY** enter paintings for sale, but paintings that are not for sale (NFS) are also acceptable.
- There is no size restriction
- The artist retains copyright to his/her image(s). However, finalist and award-winning images do become part of OPA archives and may be used for future OPA event promotion.

If for any reason you are in doubt as to whether your painting, reference, substrate, etc. is acceptable please call/email (815) 356-5987, mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com to determine acceptability in advance of submitting your work