



OIL PAINTERS of AMERICA

CREATING COMMUNITY · ADVANCING SKILLS · ELEVATING EXCELLENCE

THE 2026 VIRTUOSOS OF THE OPA Exhibition of Traditional Oils

Oil Painters of America is pleased to announce that the 2026 Virtuosos Exhibition will be hosted by Principle Gallery, located in Alexandria, Virginia, from October 9 through November 8, 2026. The opening reception is being held on Friday, October 9 with a private reception from 5-6 pm followed by a reception open to the public from 6-8:30 pm. The awards presentations will begin at 7:30 pm.

Alexandria, Virginia, is located opposite Washington, D.C. on the Potomac River and is steeped in history as evidenced by its brick sidewalks and hundreds of preserved 18th and 19th century buildings. Gadsby Tavern is one block from the gallery with the original floor trod by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Other historic sites include the Tall Ship Providence, Carlyle House, and Washington's home, Mount Vernon, just outside of town.

Our goal is to present approximately 70-75 of the finest paintings of our Associate, 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.

The total awards will be approximately \$35,000 in cash and merchandise.

The awarding juror will be an OPA Master Signature member.

Artists eligible to compete are current OPA members who are citizens and most non-resident aliens who currently live on the continent of North America. Please check eligibility details on the OPA website.



ENTRY GUIDELINES

ENTRIES DUE THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

- Canvas size: Maximum size not to exceed 900 square inches (unframed). Example: 30" height x 30" width = 900 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.
- Paintings must have been created within the last 5 years
- An artist may NOT submit a painting to a Salon that has previously been accepted into a physical OPA Exhibition, or that has been accepted as a finalist or award winner in an OPA 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 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.
- Only original paintings are acceptable for entry. They must be created by hand, solely by the artist submitting the painting and be original in concept and design.

Click here for OPA's full rules designating what constitutes an original painting and an acceptable entry. Entries must be in full compliance with these rules.

SUBMISSION RULES

If you are unsure if you are in compliance, we are happy to answer your questions.

Email: mail@oilpaintersofamerica.com
or call (815) 356-5987.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 Deadline for submissions

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 Acceptance notification posted on the OPA website

SEPTEMBER 24 - 30 Uncrated, hand-delivered artwork to arrive at Principle Gallery, 10 am to 6 pm

SEPTEMBER 26 - 30 Shipped artwork to arrive at Principle Gallery

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 Private Reception: 5 - 6 p m

Reception for collectors, press, exhibiting artists and the public: 6-8:30 pm

Awards & Recognition Ceremony: 7:30 pm

OCTOBER 9 – NOVEMBER 8 Exhibition open for viewing. See below for exhibition hours

NOVEMBER 10 - 13 Painting pickup window for local artists.

GALLERY HOURS

Sunday 11 am - 6 pm

Monday 12 pm - 5 pm

Tues., Wed. & Thur.

10 am - 6 pm

Fri. & Sat.

10 am - 8 pm

LIABILITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Oil Painters of America and Principle 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.

Submissions Accepted Online

ENTER

Good Luck and Good Painting!

ENTRY INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED June 15 to August 20, 2026 through the OPA website at www.oilpaintersofamerica.com

CANVAS SIZE May not exceed 900 sq. in. (30"x30" = 900 sq. in.)

DIGITAL IMAGE TYPE JPG, JPEG, PNG or HEIC are acceptable with a filename that only contains alphanumeric characters.

DIGITAL IMAGE SIZE Maximum file size of 5MB, image 4000 pixels in the longest dimension. Minimum size of 1400 pixels in the longest dimension. We recommend that images be close to the maximum size.

JURYING FEES \$35 first painting, \$15 second painting, \$10 third painting. Only one painting can be accepted. Payment made by credit card or through Stripe. No e-checks.

MEMBERSHIP You must be a paid member through December 31, 2026 at a cost of \$80. 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 2026 the system will not accept your exhibition entry until payment has been made.

SALES COMMISSION Artists will receive 50% of sale price. Please take this into consideration when setting your price. All work that is submitted must be for sale and priced in accordance with the artist's current pricing structure.

DELIVERY OF ACCEPTED WORK Ship to Principle Gallery to arrive September 26 through 30, or hand deliver paintings to Principle Gallery from September 24 through 30, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

RETURN F ACCEPTED WORK Hand delivered work must be picked up November 10 – 13, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Shipping information (including shipping address and address for physical deliveries) and the necessary accompanying forms will be emailed to accepted entrants after jurying has been completed.

CRATING FEE Artists who ship their paintings must pay a \$25 crating fee through the OPA website portal. **OPA will waive the crating fee** for artists who use a commercially manufactured artist's strong box manufactured by Airfloat Systems, Masterpak, or Uline. Artists may opt to have their strong boxes returned to them at the conclusion of the show at their own expense.

RETURN SHIPPING LABEL Artist must send a return shipping label to the gallery. Do so by either including the label with your painting OR email the label directly to Principle Gallery. *Shipments from outside the US must be shipped "FREE DOMICILE" or will not be accepte*