

Important Changes to WAS-H Exhibition Criteria

By Lynne Woods – Past President

Louise H. Bateman - President

From time to time questions arise regarding the monthly prospectus requirements. It can be confusing, particularly for newer members, to understand why and how the requirements may change from one type of exhibit to the next. For example, the Prospectus for most monthly shows will state that artwork must be protected by Plexiglas and only white matting be used. However, these criteria change in the December “Small Painting” themed show that allows glass and colored mats. Other shows, have variations in other criteria, such as allowable painting surfaces, frame width, stringing, size, etc. It can seem confusing!

To clarify these issues, a committee of past gallery directors—**Louise Bateman, Beverly Aderholt and Jan McNeill**—has worked together to make recommendations for clarification of exhibition criteria. They have put together two distinct, yet complementary documents. One chart highlights the variation in Prospectus Guidelines for differently themed shows, and the other chart defines the Exhibition Criteria by category. Louise H. Bateman, President, refers to them as a “Quick Reference” and “Dictionary”, It is important to keep in mind when reviewing the Exhibition Criteria, or “Dictionary,” that this document IS NOT mandating that each show use all of these criteria each month.

The Board has discussed and approved the committee’s work, which is summarized below:

The WAS-H Bylaws state that, “The purpose of the Society shall be to further the cause and interest in watercolor art through teaching, programs, demonstrations, outreach and exhibitions. Watercolor art is accepted as the use of 80% water-soluble medium.”

The Committee has also recommended that we distinguish between the missions of our regular monthly exhibits and our two major exhibitions (Annual Members and International Exhibit, or IE):

WAS-H Mission of Monthly Exhibits:

- Provide forum for members to display their work for viewing by members, visitors, and community at large
- Encourage newer artists and members to enter monthly exhibits
- Strategy: Less costly entry, less restrictive criteria than major exhibits; juried exhibits with cash awards, recognition of winners in monthly Washrag/website/Facebook.

WAS-H Mission of Major Exhibits (Annual Members & International):

- Offer prestigious competitive exhibits for members (and non-members in IE only) to aspire towards
- Strategy: Offer signature status (with IE acceptance), high standards, large awards, renowned national artist as judge, catalogue for IE, recognition of winners in Washrag/website/Facebook.

The intent of the distinction between the regular monthly versus the major exhibits is to encourage our newer or less-experienced artists to feel comfortable entering the less-stringent monthly shows, while offering more experienced artists a higher level of competition and reward through the major exhibits. We aim to create a learning-ladder that will support artists as they move from beginner to advanced levels of skill and experience.

The adjacent charts show revised exhibit criteria for monthly versus major exhibits. Of special note are the criteria changes in originality and collage.

If you have any questions regarding these documents, please reach out to any of these committee members:

Louise H. Bateman, President 713-703-6889 LouiseHBateman54@gmail.com
Jan McNeill, Historian 832-778-7180 jan.mcneill@att.net
Beverly Aderholt 713-468-5141 beverlyaderholt@att.net

And as always, if you have questions regarding a specific monthly Prospectus please contact the Gallery Director: Kathleen Church, kechurch@mac.com, 713-702-0018.

Please make time to read this article and the charts carefully. We believe these clarifications and changes will further improve WAS-H exhibits.

**Watercolor Art Society of Houston
Exhibition Criteria – April 3, 2017 Approved**

Exhibit Criteria:	Monthly Exhibits	International & Annual Members Exhibits
Water soluble media	At least 80% water media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercolor • Acrylic • Gouache • Egg tempera • Casein • Ink NO water miscible oil	Same as monthly Same as monthly
Surface	Paper Yupo Claybord or gessobord(with or without cradle) Paper based board (illustration or art board) Canvas is NOT accepted (except in Experimental Show)	Same as monthly Canvas is NOT accepted
Originality	Photo references allowed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permission granted photos taken by others • Photos no longer copyright protected • Purchased photos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT painted from another's painting • NOT painted under supervision or from teaching DVD or book (except Student Exhibition) • NOT won in any monthly exhibit or accepted in AME or IE exhibit • NOT repainted from winning image Only original artwork (no giclees, copies, etc)	"Source material must be the artist's original and NOT derived from any published references or from photographs NOT taken by the artist" Same as monthly Same as monthly NOT accepted in any previous AME or IE exhibit NOT repainted from winning image Same as monthly

Exhibit Criteria:	Monthly Exhibits	International & Annual Members Exhibits
Collage	<p>Allowed as long as water media is the dominant element</p> <p>No restrictions on collage source (i.e. Fabric allowed, commercial papers, photos, etc)</p>	<p>Allowed as long as water media is the dominant element</p> <p>All collage materials MUST be original designs executed on water media paper</p>
Enhancement media	<p>Less than 20%:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercolor pencils • Pastels • Wax accents & resists • Charcoal • Graphite • Metallic water based paint • Water based iridescent paints 	Same as monthly
WASH Membership	Required	<p><u>Required for AME/ Not required for IE*</u></p> <p>*Note: must be member BEFORE IE acceptance to count towards Signature Status</p>
Pricing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paintings will have sales tax added at time of sale. • Can be for sale or NFS • Gallery commission of 20% & 5% charge for credit card sales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as monthly • Same as monthly • WASH reserves the right to negotiate up to 10% discount to secure IE painting sale
Matting and framing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All submissions must be framed except clayboard on wooden cradles. • Simple metal or wood frames no wider than 2.0" • White mats only. If liner is used, it must be white. • Frame must be wired for hanging. No other hangers • Painting size not to exceed 48" in height or width, frame included 	Same as monthly
Plexiglas protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All submissions must be protected by Plexiglas except for clayboard. • No varnished paintings 	Same as monthly
Unclothed figure	<p>Yes.</p> <p>WASH reserves the right to refuse entries that are obscene, controversial, or in bad taste.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Same as monthly</p>

	General/No Theme/Themed	Experimental	Student Show	Small Paintings Show	Figure Clothed/Unclathed
Current WASH Member	Yes	Yes	Yes. Excluding Signature Artists.	Yes	Yes
Only Original Artwork	May not be a likeness of another's painting or drawing	May not be a likeness of another's painting or drawing	Original or credited teacher's composition.	May not be a likeness of another's painting or drawing	May not be a likeness of another's painting or drawing
Completed Within Last 24 Months	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	Yes
Not Painted Under Supervision	Yes. Artwork completed in a Figure Model Session that does not include instruction is acceptable.	Yes. Artwork completed in a Figure Model Session that does not include instruction is acceptable.	Work Done Under Any Teacher/Supervision Permitted	Yes. Artwork completed in a Figure Model Session that does not include instruction is acceptable.	Yes. Artwork completed in a Figure Model Session that does not include instruction is acceptable.
80% Water Media	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Surfaces	Paper, Claybord, gessobord or Yupo	Any Surface	Paper, Claybord, gessobord, Yupo	Paper, Claybord, gessobord, Yupo	Paper, Claybord, gessobord, Yupo
Media	80% Watermedia	80% Watermedia	80% Watermedia	80% Watermedia	All drawing and water based media or any combination thereof
Has not won a WAS-H Award or been accepted into the IE/AME	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Frame	Must be framed. Only exception is Clayboard wooden cradle panels.	No restriction on frame style or width	Must be framed. Only exception is Clayboard wooden cradle panels.	No restriction on frame style or width	Must be framed. Only exception is Clayboard wooden cradle panels.
Frame Width	Must Not Exceed 2 inches	No Restriction	Must Not Exceed 2 inches	No Restrictions	Must Not Exceed 2 Inches
Frame Type	Plain, simple grooves only.	No restriction on frame style or width	Plain, simple grooves only.	No restriction on frame style or width	Plain, simple grooves only.
Mat	White mats and liners.	Any color of mats and liners	White mats and liners.	Any color of mats and liners	White or gray mats and liners
Stringing	Must be strung with wire for hanging	Must be strung with wire for hanging if wider than 12"	Must be strung with wire for hanging	Must be strung with wire for hanging	Must be strung with wire for hanging
Plexiglass/Glass	Plexiglass if needed. No glass accepted.	Plexiglass if needed. No glass accepted.	Plexiglass if needed. No glass accepted.	Glass Allowed	Plexiglass if needed. No glass accepted.
Size	Not to exceed 48" in height or width, frame included.	Not to exceed 48" in height or width, frame included.	Not to exceed 48" in height or width, frame included.	Paintings not to exceed 16" in height or width, including frame.	Not to exceed 48" in height or width, frame included.

NOTES: This Category would include themes such as Abstract, Landscape, Seascape, Cityscape, etc.