

[FAQ link on WSA website](#)

Q. Why all the rules for painting content and presentation?

The WSA goal is to achieve a homogeneous water-media exhibition; a collection of art to be enhanced and illuminated in a museum setting. It is most important that we maintain the integrity of a watercolor society and not allow materials or techniques that detract from our goal.

Q. What are some recent violations of WSA prospectus requirements?

In past exhibitions, there were numerous paintings that contained things for which they were **not acceptable**. A few are listed as follows:

- Older than two years
- Applied texture mediums
- Varnished
- Not original paintings, published reference materials were used
- Painted on canvas
- Ornate frames, dirty or colored mats

When this was brought to the artists' attention, most of them had not read or paid attention to the prospectus requirements. We want everyone to be successful and not be rejected because they didn't read the prospectus carefully. Recently WSA reformatted the prospectus requirements in an easier form for the artist to read and hopefully follow. The exhibition requirements have not changed; they have only been restated in a different format and all future prospectuses will follow this format. In fairness to all WSA members the Screening Committee will be checking entries against all of the requirements listed in the prospectus.

Q. Does the term "aqueous, watercolor manner" mean that if you use the dry-brush technique, gouache or egg tempera, that the painting is disqualified?

Any of the allowed medium will be accepted if it is applied in the same manner that watercolor is applied, to include dry brush. However, if the paint is applied so thickly that it becomes raised in depth (globs of media) on the paper, it will not be accepted. The dry brush technique is a valid watercolor technique and is very acceptable when applied in the same manner as watercolor.

The dry brush technique can be achieved with any water-based media.

Regardless of which water-based media is used, the brush should be dry or squeezed dry of all water, loaded with the aqueous, watercolor-consistency media, and applied to a dry support....or... the dry brush can be loaded with aqueous media and then squeezed dry. How much paint remains on the support when applied depends on the swiftness of the application; the dampness of the brush, and/or the dryness of the support. However, if globs of raised application of paint remain on the support, it will not be accepted.

[Q. Why does the Society have a maximum frame size requirement?](#)

WSA holds the National Exhibition at a different venue every year. Some of the venues' hanging space is larger than others. WSA works with each venue to determine the number of paintings that can be hung. Our goal is to hang as many paintings as possible in order to give more artists an opportunity to exhibit. Framed sizes are therefore required according to the amount of space provided by the venue for exhibition. Please read the prospectus carefully as the framed size may change from year to year.