



The Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (CSPWC)
La Société Canadienne de Peintres en Aquarelle (SCPA)

CSPWC/SCPA ELECTED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION INFORMATION SHEET

Any artist who paints in watercolour, from anywhere in the world, may apply for elected membership in the CSPWC/SCPA. Only application by the artist shall be considered. An offer of membership is made upon: receiving 6 of 9 votes by a national jury of nine CSPWC/SCPA elected members, passing a verification stage and donating 1 unframed painting to the CSPWC Diploma Collection.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: NOVEMBER 1ST

An application is made by digitally submitting:

1. A completed application form and fee.
2. Six watercolour painting digital images (see definition of watercolour below, see digital submission criteria below)
3. Supporting Documents in Word Format (limit 300 words or less per section):
 - i. BIO
 - ii. Artist's Statement.
 - iii. Education including workshops
 - iv. Experience and success in juried shows, local, regional and national.
 - v. Motivation for applying for membership
 - vi. Personal Contribution To CSPWC: if elected how will you contribute to the work of CSPWC.
 - vii. Diploma Collection Donation: if successful you will be required to donate one unframed painting to the CSPWC Diploma Collection. The jurists will choose one from three you offer.

SELECTION PROCESS

Stage 1: Applications are received and reviewed. Incomplete applications are rejected. Complete applications move to stage 2.

Stage 2: A national jury of nine CSPWC/SCPA elected members will independently review your application. Each jurist will assess your six images using the CSPWC Jurist Painting Assessment Standard. *The standard is a subjective measure of how each jurist perceives the quality of your submitted work. Each jurist will make a recommendation to “elect” or “not ready for election”: so, submit your best. Each jurist will also recommend a painting for acceptance as a “Diploma Collection” painting.*

Stage 3: The New Member Committee Chair will review the assessments of each jurist. To be elected to the CSPWC six of nine jurists must agree. The Chair will make a recommendation to the Executive to “elect”.

At any time during the process, the Chair may require verification of the actual paintings. The applicant must retain the work and be prepared to ship the work unframed if requested.

Stage 4: Successful applicants will be notified electronically by email. The applicant will be accepted into the CSPWC upon receipt of the Diploma Collection painting.

What is Watercolour?

The CSPWC/SCPA’s definition of Transparent Watercolour is the use of artist’s quality watercolour paint used on paper or watercolour board, with minimal use of body colour or other accents.

The CSPWC/SCPA’s definition of Water-Based Media is paint that is resoluble in water (artist’s quality watercolour paint, applied transparently or opaquely; and/or gouache) and there may be a pencil drawing. The paint surface is an organic fibre paper, including watercolour paper mounted on board. Only media listed in the definition above are permissible.

These definitions do not include ‘varnished’ works, works on yupo paper, works rendered on canvas/canvas board, or works printed by mechanical means. Application must be by hand, brush, or any tool by the artist, without mechanical assistance.

What is the CSPWC/SCPA Diploma Collection?

The Diploma Collection is the permanent collection of the CSPWC/SCPA, which is currently housed at the PAMA (Peel Art Gallery Museum). in Brampton, Ontario. The collection was started in 1991 and since then each elected member has donated a painting, along with earlier members who choose to donate a painting. There are close to 400 paintings in the collection. The collection is displayed from time to time, is used to produce books and for purposes of education. As shipping, storage and display issues create limitations, the Diploma Collection paintings are no larger than a full sheet (22”x 30”).

What are the CSPWC/SCPA Diploma Collection Requirements?

Successful applicants must donate ONE unframed painting from the six submitted images to the Diploma Collection as a condition of membership. At least three and none no larger than a full sheet (22” x 30”), must be available for the jury to choose the Diploma Painting from (and kept available

throughout this process). The applicant must indicate the three on the application form. Those available for selection for the Diploma Collection must be painted on quality archival materials. If elected, the artist gives the CSPWC/SCPA permission to exhibit the painting and to reproduce it for educational and promotional purposes.

Copyright Ownership of the Paintings

The original paintings must be solely conceived and created by the submitting artist. Work completed during a workshop and/ or under the tutelage of an instructor is ineligible. Paintings derived or based on work by another visual artist are ineligible. Works may be based on photograph(s) only if the original photograph(s) was/were taken by the submitting artist. The submitting artist must be the sole holder of copyright interest in the submitted paintings.

Making Digital Files of Your Watercolour Paintings

The digital images must be submitted as a JPEG file format, maximum 4 MB file size and minimum 1 MB, maximum resolution of 2400px on the long side.

Image submissions (see: the CSPWC website for FAQs).

Your image files must be named in the following format, including the commas:

Artist's Last Name, First Name, Image Number, Painting Title, Height X Width in inches, Medium, Year of completion.jpg

Example: Smith, John,1, A Day on the River, 22 X 30 in, WC, 2010.jpg

Image numbers must correspond to the number provided on the written application form. It is essential that you do this properly to avoid any confusion with your submitted images. Test your material before submission to ensure that it is formatted correctly. Artwork should be photographed to as high a standard as possible. Good lighting is critical. Crop digital images to remove any extraneous material – frames, mats, or studio background. Paintings should be photographed squarely from the front, not angled within the frame of the photo. If you are unfamiliar with digital photography, have your paintings photographed by someone who is, even professionally. Images that do not meet these criteria will not be accepted.

When does Activation of Membership occur?

Membership becomes active when the successful applicant delivers their UNFRAMED Diploma Collection work to the CSPWC/ SCPA head office, all follow up membership information forms are completed, and annual membership fees are paid. Current annual membership fee of \$125, as of May 2010.

Newly elected members will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, traditionally the first Saturday in May, where their Diploma Paintings will be displayed and a 150-word bio/artist's statement will be presented. At the AGM, it is best if they are displayed matted but not framed as they will be stored unmatted in the Diploma Collection in the PAMA (Peel Art Gallery Museum).

Title: CSPWC Jurist Painting Assessment Standard

Revision: June 21, 2017

The purpose of the standard is to ensure that paintings in watercolour are assessed consistently, for those characteristics deemed essential of a good watercolour painting, and expected of an elected member of the CSPWC.

Assessment Criteria:

1. **Luminosity** is the essence of good watercolour and differentiates it from most other mediums. Luminosity can be characterised by rich transparent dark passages and bright middle /light tones.
 - 1 is dull and muddy with no variation in tonal range
 - 5 is a full of light and luminosity, opaque passages were used with intent
2. **Painterly**: the painter has used value, shape and hue to accentuate the center of interest or theme. Brush strokes, edge control, lights and darks and colour temperature choices are clearly the work of a skilled and knowledgeable painter.
 - 1 is flat, no edge variation, poorly cropped and no center of interest
 - 5 is a clear center of interest supported by a variety of shapes, value, edges and hue (temperature).
3. **Creative**: the work is unique in style or theme. If the work is highly influenced has the artist tried to differentiate?
 - 1 is clearly a popular style including the themes.
 - 5 is a unique expression of an idea using pigment, style, theme.
4. **Size**: can the artist paint large? Works on full sheets expose the painter's strengths and weaknesses more so than small works.
 - 1 is no half size or larger format
 - 5 is a range of shape and size including half sheets or larger.
5. **Style**: Works show a consistency in style even though the motif may vary.
 - 1 is not coherent in style or motif
 - 5 is consistent, coherent even if the motif varies
6. **Work is Recent**: Works have been executed in the last 3 years

end