



*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 5 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):
  - i Bio
  - ii Artist's Statement
  - iii Diploma Collection Donation: if successful you will be required to donate one unframed painting to the CSPWC Diploma Collection. The jurors will choose one from the three you offer.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

**Stage 1:** Applications are received and reviewed. 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. *Using this Standard the jurists will review each 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 5 of nine jurists must agree. The Chair will make a recommendation to the Executive to “elect”.

*The Chair will require verification of the actual paintings. The applicant must retain the work and present the physical paintings to one of the jurists. If it's not possible to take the paintings to the jurist in person the applicant must be prepared to ship the work unframed.*

**Stage 4:** Successful applicants will be notified by phone. 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 resolvable 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 fiber 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. 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 to be 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 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 and can not be varnished. 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.

### **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, the paintings are displayed matted but not framed. They will be stored unmatted in the Diploma Collection.

## **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 and that you are aware of the standards prior to applying for membership.*

### **Criteria For Selection To Elected Membership**

- You are applying for membership in a national watercolour society with a standard of excellence.
- We are looking for watercolourists whose paintings demonstrate excellence in the medium of transparent watercolour. Paintings may include a limited use of opaque watercolour (gouache) but must be primarily transparent watercolour.
- Your work needs to demonstrate the ability to create a successful painting in terms of composition and the use of design elements.
- The jurists are looking for members who are using watercolour to express their authentic and personal vision.
- Your paintings do not need to all be on the same subject (landscape, still life etc) but they need to show a consistency in style ie they must be a cohesive body of work.
- The paintings must have been done in the past 3 years.
- Nothing larger than a full sheet.
- You must submit 6 paintings.