

# The Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour (CSPWC) La Societe Canadienne de Peintres in Aquarelle (SCPA)

## **CSPWC/SCPA Elected Membership Application Guide**

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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. Every artist who becomes an Elected Member must donate one unframed painting to the Society's Diploma Collection.

**Deadline for all Applications: November 1<sup>st</sup>**

An application is made by digitally submitting:

1. The completed Application form
2. Payment of the Application fee (\$50 CAD)
3. Six digital portfolio images (the "Application Portfolio")
4. Bio and Artist Statement document

Please read this guide thoroughly; improperly prepared Applications will not be accepted into the Jurying Process. Whenever possible, we will inform you of necessary corrections in a timely manner so that you may correct the issue and re-submit.

When contacting the Society [info@CSPWC.ca](mailto:info@CSPWC.ca), please enter "Applicant name-New Membership" into the subject line of your email: this makes it easier for our administrator as we go through the process. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns before applying!

Ex subject line: John Smith – New Membership

## **The Process**

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1. The Jury evaluates the Applications. This is generally completed in early January, and Applicants are notified of results shortly afterwards; Applicants must receive at least 5 out of 9 votes for Membership by the Jurors to proceed with the process. **Applicants will be notified of results the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January.**
2. Any Applicant that receives at least 5 out of 9 votes for Membership by the Jury will also be notified of the Jury's selection for the Diploma Collection. The Applicant will receive instructions for sending this painting (unframed) to the CSPWC office for verification, and additional paperwork to fill out. **The**

- painting and documentation must be received in the Office by March 15 or Offer of Elected Membership may be revoked.
3. Once the paintings have all arrived in the Office, they will be verified by several Elected Members in good standing to confirm that they conform to the digital images submitted, and to our definitions of Watercolour.
  4. Once the painting is verified, an Official Offer of Elected Membership is made to the Applicant.
  5. Upon payment of yearly dues (\$125 CAD) and completion of all paperwork, the Applicant is now an official Elected Member of the CSPWC. **All dues and paperwork must be completed by April 15 or Offer of Elected Membership may be revoked.**

Newly Elected Members will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), traditionally the first Saturday in May. When an in-person AGM is held, the Diploma Collection Paintings of these new Elected Members will be on display for the attendees.

## **The Application Portfolio**

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The Application Portfolio is the most important part of the Application. It consists of six paintings. The Jurors are looking for members who are using Watercolour to express their authentic and personal vision. Your work needs to demonstrate the ability to create a successful painting in terms of composition, draftsmanship, and technique. Your paintings do not all necessarily need to be the same subject, but the overall Portfolio must show a consistency in style and vision. As large paintings require a different skill set than smaller ones, it is to your advantage to demonstrate your expertise with various painting sizes, but not strictly necessary. The six paintings must all be of high quality; the Jurors are instructed to vote against Portfolios that have even one poor painting.

It is highly recommended that Artists considering applying for Elected Membership research existing members and understand the calibre of work expected. This can include viewing past Open Water exhibits, our existing Diploma Collection (soon to be uploaded on our website!) or the personal websites of current Elected Members. Do you think your artwork has been executed to the same high degree? If so, then please apply!

### **Definition of Watercolour**

There are two definitions of Watercolour used by the Society; paintings that fall under *either* definition are acceptable for the Elected Membership Application Portfolio.

***However make note: any painting eligible for the Diploma Collection must be on unmounted paper: this is non-negotiable due to the logistic constraints of storing the Collection. Paintings eligible for the Diploma Collection must be unvarnished and***

*unwaxed. Therefore, **at least three paintings** in the Application portfolio must be unmounted, unvarnished and unwaxed paintings on paper; please also see following section regarding the Diploma Collection.*

*Transparent Watercolour:* The use of artist's-quality resoluble watercolour paint, with minimal use of opaque paint.

*Watermedia:* Artwork must maintain the character and appearance of watercolour. Permitted media include artist's-quality watercolour paint, watercolour ink, watercolour crayon, watercolour pencil, and gouache (which may be applied transparently or opaquely). The use of a graphite drawing and India Ink are accepted. No acrylic, oils or pastels of any kind are permitted.

*Substrate:* The paint surface is an organic fiber paper, which includes: watercolour paper, watercolour paper glued to wood/composite panel, watercolour paper glued to canvas, or canvas prepared for watercolour. Yupo is not accepted. Paintings may be finished with varnish or wax.

All paintings in the Application Portfolio 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. This includes live instruction, as well as tutorials in either book or video format. Work 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.

All paintings in the Application Portfolio must have been completed in the last three years.

### Image File Requirements

The digital images must be in JPEG format, minimum of 1MB and maximum of 4MB in size, maximum 2400 pixels on the longest side and 300 dpi. Please use the following naming conventions for your files:

LASTNAME-FIRSTNAME-1-THE-NAME-OF-THE-PAINTING.jpeg

Image numbers must correspond to the number provided on the 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, such as 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.

## **The Diploma Collection**

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*\*\*\* The Diploma Collection is currently offline as it undergoes construction with new digital files. As the Collection is very large and the work meticulous, it is a complex and time-consuming process. We ask for your patience as our volunteers work on this important task to keep the Collection accessible to the public \*\*\**

The Diploma Collection is an important National Collection, representing Canadian Watercolour Artists since the conception of the CSPWC in 1925. It includes one painting donated by each Elected Member at the time that they are Elected. It's an incredible resource for all Watercolour Artists. We strongly encourage you to explore the Collection online in detail once it is available.

Ask yourself if each one of your Portfolio paintings could hang comfortably beside those works? Makes notes of what you like, why, and how it enhances the work.

*“Yeah, I’ve been elected!” What should I know about my Diploma Collection Painting?*

Your three paintings offered as potential Diploma pieces should be your very best work. Though you are donating one of your paintings, that painting will represent you in a National collection - forever! As we adapt to online access, this makes the Collection even more visible. Members **may not** switch paintings in the future; they represent you at the time of being Elected. Even as your skills and style change in the future, you want an example of your current best work in the Collection. Please consider this when you make your Application.

Once the Jury has voted to Elect an Applicant, they will also select which painting will be accepted into the Diploma Collection. The Applicant is responsible for having the painting matted, and then delivered to the CSPWC office.

### **The Diploma Collection requirements**

Successful Applicants must donate 1 unframed painting of the Jury’s choosing from their Application Portfolio to the Society. At least 3 of the 6 paintings from the Application Portfolio must be eligible for the Jury to choose for the Collection. The Artist must retain ownership of the eligible paintings until the close of the Jurying process. **The painting the Jury chooses becoming unavailable is grounds for revoking the offer of Elected Membership.** Upon becoming an Elected Member, the Artist gives the Society permission to exhibit the painting and to reproduce it for educational and promotional purposes.

Eligible Diploma Collection paintings must:

1. Be no larger than a full sheet of watercolour paper (30 by 22")
2. Be unmounted paper, unvarnished, and unwaxed
3. Be appropriately matted with identical double-mats; the mats must be 4-ply, archival (acid-free), and attached on the long side with archival tape.

When shipping the painting, please ensure there are no non-archival materials (masking tape, etc) attached to the painting.

## **Supporting Documents**

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### Application Form

This is an electronic PDF document available for download from our website. It can be filled out and signed electronically; a guide to this available in our FAQ document. If you must print out the document to fill it out, you may scan the completed and signed document and submit it; however it must be formatted as a PDF (not a JPEG).

### Bio and Artist Statement

We understand that artists of many different backgrounds and strengths will be applying for Elected Membership. Therefore we offer some flexibility for this document. It must be one file, but it can be between 1-2 pages in length, with the Bio and Artist Statement each taking up any proportion desired by the Applicant. Any pages submitted after the 2<sup>nd</sup> page will not be given to the Jury for consideration. There can be no illustrations or photographs in this document, and no links to the Artist's website. Note that we are not looking for point-by-point CV's, but you may refer to any shows, awards, education experience, etc in as much detail as you think relevant and space allows.

The submitted file must be either .doc or .pdf. Please use the following naming convention for your file:

LASTNAME-FIRSTNAME-DOCUMENT.doc (or .pdf)