

WATERCOLOR WEST TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

Watercolor West is dedicated to the celebration and advancement of transparent watercolor painting on paper by fostering its appreciation and encouraging its use in original artistic creations. The only allowable paper is a single piece of rag or wood pulp paper that is free of pigment or embedded materials.

In this context the term "*transparency*" refers to the property of allowing light to pass through the layer(s) of pigment to the paper below which then reflects the light back through the pigments. The whites are the white paper left unpainted. The broader designation 'water-based media' refers to any medium that is water-soluble, applied on any ground and thus includes transparent watercolor on paper.

To achieve its ends, Watercolor West hosts an annual International Juried Exhibition that challenges its participants to be creative with transparent watercolor on a single piece of rag or wood pulp paper that is free of pigment and embedded material. The beauty and great variety possible with these more limited means can be observed by reviewing past Watercolor West International Juried Exhibitions at www.watercolorwest.org. In these exhibitions transparency and originality are paramount. "*Originality*" means being new or novel and not a copy or derivative of another's creative work. For an understanding of the term as understood by Watercolor West, please review the statement on *Plagiarism*.

We would be delighted if you would accept our challenge and submit entries to our 50th Watercolor West International Juried Exhibition. We ask that you honor the objectives of this event and abide by its rules. Individual diligence and careful attention will create an enjoyable and fair experience for everyone.

A listing of the grounds, treatments and media that are excluded follows. However, in this day and age of rapid technological advances, it is not possible to cover every possible exception. The rule of thumb is: if it is not on allowable paper and painted with only transparent watercolor, it will be eliminated. To assure a level playing field, Watercolor West appoints a Screening Committee to review all accepted work for compliance. Its decisions are final.

- The following grounds, treatments and media are excluded:
 - White paint of any kind, such as Chinese White.
 - Gesso, matte medium or any other priming material or exterior surface treatment.
 - Gouache, acrylics or water-soluble oils.
 - Ink, metallic or iridescent paint or products that leave a graphite-like sheen.
 - Watercolor crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, pastel, Conte sticks or Conte crayon.
 - Varnish, wax, wax crayon, oil sticks or oil pastel.
 - Collage or surface constructions, impasto, embossing.
 - Watercolor resist, such as Frisket, that is not completely removed from the final painting.
 - Paper that is pigmented or has embedded materials.
 - Yupo or similar papers.
 - Canvas or canvas paper.
 - Use of digital images or enhancements printed on the paper.

- All other grounds, treatments, additives, media or art materials that do not conform to the spirit of the Exhibition.

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