



PLAGIARISM

In the art community, there are more and more stories of work being thrown out of shows with awards being stripped because of plagiarism. The problem has increased with the easy access to the web and digital material. The lines of authorship have become more blurred. Here are some guidelines.

Webster's dictionary definition is: *Plagiarize - [plagiarist, kidnapper] – to take (ideas, writings, etc.) from another and pass them off as one's own – plagiarism, plagiarist, plagiarizer.*

Watercolor West's prospectus in the ELIGIBILITY section clearly states that "Entries must be original and not a copy or likeness of another's work". Entries cannot be someone else's "intellectual property". That includes any work done in a workshop or class assignment under a teacher's direction. It has to be your own thought, idea, composition and image. It cannot be a direct copy of a photograph unless you took the photo yourself or a copy of other artists' creative work (their paintings and/or their photographs) or an image from a magazine, newspaper, or the web.

Not everyone is a good photographer. You may need to use a reference photograph for clarity or detail. Use photographs with caution; DO NOT COPY. You are the artist, use your own inspiration and creative skills to make your art work your very own.

Violations of plagiarism and copyright are a serious matter for the artist, Watercolor West and the City of Brea Art Gallery when accepting work other than original. Paintings that fail to meet these standards will be disqualified and may lead to an artist being banned from entering any future Watercolor West and City of Brea Art Gallery exhibits. A proof of reference material may be required to establish the authorship of the artists' work.

For further information on copyright law, visit the United States Copyright Office online at <https://www.copyright.gov>.