



TRANSPARENCY

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 Exhibition catalogs. 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 paragraph on *Plagiarism* www.watercolorwest.org.

We would be delighted if you would accept our challenge and submit entries to our 49th 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.

The prospectus for the 49th Watercolor West International Juried Exhibition identifies a variety of media that are explicitly excluded, as they do not conform to the concept of transparent watercolor on a single piece of rag or wood pulp paper that is free of pigment and embedded materials. 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.

The following are excluded:

- White paint of any kind
- Gesso, matte medium or any other priming material or exterior surface treatment.
- Gouache, acrylics or water-soluble oil.
- Ink, metallic or iridescent paint.
- 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.
- Frisket or any other watercolor resist that is not 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.
- Graphite pencil may be used only for planning marks.

To assure a level playing field, Watercolor West appoints a Screening Committee to review all accepted work for compliance. Its decisions are final.