

FWS Exhibition Violations & Reprimands - Updated March 2022

The Florida Watercolor Society produces two member exhibitions per year. We work very hard to ensure that all entrants wishing to participate have the same chance. In place is a set of rules and guidelines that applies to every artist and every entry. Each year, there are those who submit work that is ineligible for any number of reasons. Most of the time they just did not read the rules, but sometimes they intentionally misrepresent themselves or their work and hope we don't find out until after the judge selects their work. This causes issues which the Board must then deal with.

For the last several years since we have worked with CaFE for Exhibition entry, we have been able to vet each artist and each artwork for eligibility. By doing so, we have been able to get in front of some problems before they happen. This is a painstaking, time-consuming job that is done to catch ineligible work before it goes to the judge. Once the judge makes his or her selections and ineligible work is uncovered after-the-fact, a spot has been taken away from another artist who followed the rules. We try very hard to avoid this issue, but sometimes something gets by us and needs to be dealt with.

Selected work is examined at take-in by a Compliance Committee consisting of the current President and two other Signature Members. Often, infractions are discovered during this examination and the Board must deal with each issue on a case-by-case basis.

So what's eligible? Here is a partial list that may help...

Eligible Media (what you use to create the image)

Pencil lines only to draw out painting
Watercolor - transparent to opaque
Gouache
Acrylic
Watercolor Pencil
Watercolor Crayon
Watercolor Inks
Acrylic inks
Alcohol inks
Gesso
Wax resist for batik (wax removed)

Eligible Substrates (what you paint on)

Watercolor paper, any brand
Mounted watercolor paper
Watercolor board; illustration board
Aquaboard, Clayboard & other flat or cradled panels
Panels coated with watercolor ground or gesso
Unframed Cradled boards, painted directly or mounted to, 1.5"-2"
Framed flat 1/8" or cradled 3/4"-7/8" Aquaboard, Clayboard, etc.
White tissue paper (for collage only)
White rice paper
White handmade paper

Eligible Presentation

Traditionally framed under Plexiglas (acrylic)
White top mat
Floated on white with no top mat
Floated on a color with a white top mat
One-quarter inch colored inner or floater mat
Plexiglas (acrylic) glazing
Coated wire preferred
Varnished cradled board
Varnished painting on paper (mounted or framed)
Floater frame for flat varnished panels
Acrylic varnish (spray can)
Wax varnish

Ineligible Media (not limited to...)

Heavy graphite pencil
Water-soluble oil paint
Oil pastels or crayons
Chalk pastels
Modeling paste
Acrylic texturing mediums
Foil
Glitter
String
Newspaper, magazine images
Wax-based crayons
Wax-based colored pencils
Gelli or other printmaking

Ineligible Substrates (not limited to...)

Black or colored watercolor paper
Drawing paper
Typing paper, copy paper
Cardboard
Any kind of canvas
Paper embedded with seeds or other materials
Sculpted or textured paper
Textured boards
Colored paper

Ineligible Presentation (not limited to...)

Traditionally framed under glass
Matted work without acrylic glazing
Linen liners, lip liners
Sawtooth hangers
Screw eyes for wire (D-straps preferred)
String, fishing line, or other wire substitutes
Gaping frame corners
Blemished, marred, or discolored mats
Colored, painted, or ornate frames
Colored top mat
Scratched, marred, or damaged frames

Following is a chart of infractions and reprimands, depending on the severity of the infraction. If you have any questions about whether an entry is eligible or not, please email fws.show.entry@gmail.com ***before entering*** and be specific about the entry in question.



Artist/Artwork Violations	Reprimands		
	Before Judging	At Take-In	After Hanging
Ineligible materials, substrates, or collage	Disqualified	Disqualified, replaced by an Alternate, possible Reprimand	Disqualified, work removed from show, letter of Reprimand, 2-year Suspension, Rescind Award
Ineligible frames, mats, presentation issues <i>(work dislodged from mat, etc.)</i>	N/A	Chance to make it right by the end of take-in at the artist's expense or replaced by an Alternate	Artist to repair damage/issue or work removed from the show
Expired creation date <i>(work older than stated in the Prospectus)</i>	Disqualified	Disqualified, replaced by an Alternate, possible Reprimand	Disqualified, work removed from show, letter of Reprimand, Possible 2-year Suspension, Rescind Award
Intentional altering of creation date	Artist & all work entered are disqualified; possible reprimand	Disqualified, replaced by an Alternate, Letter of Reprimand, possible suspension	Disqualified, work removed from show, letter of Reprimand, Possible 2-year Suspension, Rescind Award
Size too large or small; inappropriate subject matter; violation of rules set by venue	Disqualified	Disqualified, replaced by an Alternate, possible Reprimand	Work with such issues would not be hung
Copyright infraction; all source materials are not original to the artist	Artist & all work entered are disqualified; possible reprimand	Disqualified, work replaced by Alternate, letter of Reprimand, 2-year Suspension	Disqualified, work removed from show, letter of Reprimand, Possible 2-year Suspension, Rescind Award
Alteration of work between selection and take-in; delivery of wrong painting	N/A	Disqualified, replaced by an Alternate, possible Reprimand	Work with such issues would not be hung
Failure to deliver a selected painting to take-in	N/A	Disqualified, replaced by an Alternate, possible Reprimand	N/A
Backing out of the Traveling Show <i>(If a TS painting sells at one of the venues, it will be removed from the TS to avoid the possibility of damage in transit)</i>	N/A	Possible Reprimand	N/A

- There are no refunds of entry fees, no matter the reason.
- Ineligible paintings may NOT be exchanged for other work.
- Reprimands are given at the discretion of the Board of Directors whose decisions are final.
- Reprimands become more severe for the same violation if the chance of being in the show is taken away from another artist, whether or not an Alternate steps in.
- For some infractions, such as copyright infringement or intentional deceit, the artist and all entries for that show are disqualified, and may incur reprimands even though the judge will never see the work.
- There are no framing restrictions for Online Show work, whether or not the work is invited to show at the FWS Convention.