



Coachella Valley Watercolor Society (CVWS) 2026 Annual Show

Exhibition Rules

General

Show entry is eligible to all current Paid-up members of the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society.

Allowed

- Original art created in the last two years.
- Art shown at a meeting or 'Painter of the Month'.

Not Allowed

- Art created in a class or workshop.
- Art that is a copy or a study of another artist's work (including commercial photography). This is because of copyright laws.
- Any art that is not original to the artist.
- Art previously exhibited in any CVWS judged show.
- Art that is damaged, inappropriate for public display (i.e., nudity or violence), improperly framed, or does not meet entry requirements.
- Clip frames.

Sizes and Entries

- Show sizes: Maximum 46", minimum size 5" on any outside edge of frame, canvas or board.
- Mini Masterpiece show sizes: **Maximum 10" painted image**. Any frame around the painted area should be no wider than 1 inch.
- Maximum of EIGHT paintings, with up to THREE in any category or TWO in the Mini Masterpieces. Each artist is allowed to enter only THREE FULL SHEETS (image size 22" x 30") TOTAL IN THE SHOW.

Mediums

- Artwork must be water-media painted in a primarily aqueous manner.
- Non-water based media may be integrated in Open category paintings, but cover no more than 20% of the artwork.
- No oils, water-miscible oils, encaustics, or photography are allowed.

Traditional Presentation Category

Artwork may be presented on watercolor paper, paper-based board, watercolor canvas, Yupo or other synthetic paper.

To be accepted into the show and judged, all traditional presentation paintings **MUST** be matted and framed (mats may be any color but must be clean and well cut). No clip frames are allowed.

Plexiglass must be used if frame is larger than 16" x 20". Frames 16" x 20" or smaller may be under glass or plexiglass. Floated framed paintings (no mat) must have spacers to keep art from touching inside plexiglass and be floated on mat board.

Paintings must be backed with foam core, mat board, or other hardboard (i.e., Masonite) no cardboard is allowed.

All frames must be wired, ready for hanging. Do not pull the wire tight. Wire should be secured one-fourth of the total height down from the top of the frame, looped through D-rings. (No eyelet screws are allowed)

Maximum **THREE** paintings

Open Presentation Category

Paintings may be on wrapped canvas or 'cradled' painting panels with a **minimum depth of 1½"**. The sides of wrapped canvases must be staple free and neatly finished or painted. Mats and frames are not required. **No glass or plexiglass in this category is allowed.**

Canvas boards (including clayboard, gesso board or canvas) **less than 1½"** deep must be framed. These paintings must be protected with a layer of medium, acrylic varnish or paint, including sides. All work must be wired ready for hanging.

Maximum **THREE** paintings.

Mini Masterpieces Category

Paintings must have a maximum of 10" on the outside of the frame edge or a minimum of 5". Artwork should comply with either Traditional or Open category rules but will be displayed and judged with the Mini Masterpieces Category. All paintings must be ready to hang but we are flexible regarding type of fittings for hanging in this category.

Maximum **two paintings** allowed in this category.

*Note, there is **NO Plein Air category** as such. Artists that paint Plein Air may enter their work in either the Traditional or Open Categories but must adhere to the rules and style of that category.*

Bin Paintings

All paintings must be original. Acrylics on paper or canvas board are allowed. All work must be matted and backed with clean foam core, mat board or stiff cardboard the same size as the mat and enclosed inside an acetate sleeve that has been fitted to the size of the mat or professionally shrink-wrapped. No cardboard backing or kitchen shrink wrap is allowed. Bin paintings will not be judged.

Maximum **EIGHT** bin paintings per artist in the bins.