P R O S P E C T U S

tennessee watercolor society

TNWS 2026 BIENNIAL JURIED EXHIBITION

Sterling Edwards Juror, Awards Judge and Workshop Presenter

Customs House Museum & Cultural Center, 200 S. Second Street, Clarksville, TN 37040

EXHIBITION TEAM:
Exhibition Chair: Wendy Latimer
Co-Chair: Jan Ducharme
Workshop Chair: Yuson Yi
Entry and In-Take Chair: Pat C. Patrick
Awards Chair: Ellen O'Kelley
Traveling Exhibit Chair: Ann McKenzie Aiken
Hospitality Chair: Need a Volunteer Team

IMPORTANT DATES:
October 15, 2025: Open Workshop Registration for Members
December 15, 2025: Open Non-Member Workshop Registration
February 1, 2026: Open Exhibition Entry
March 1: Deadline to receive entries
March 5: Exhibition entries sent to juror
April 10: Notifications sent to artists
April 27 – May 1: Shipping of Paintings to the Customs House
April 29: Wednesday: 10am to 2pm: In person delivery to Customs House
May 9: Exhibition opens to the public
May 12 – May 15: Sterling Edwards Workshop
May 16, Saturday: Opening Day activities, Materials Demos, Lunch, membership meeting, and Opening Reception with Awards presentation.
July 19: Last open day of Exhibit
July 20: Monday: In person Painting Pick up
July 23: Traveling Exhibit Paintings move to Humboldt, WTRAC

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY: The exhibition is open to artists 18 years of age and older who reside in Tennessee or meet the requirements of membership.

WORKS OF ART ELIGIBILITY: The artwork must have been completed since February 2022 and not shown in any previous juried TnWS exhibition, including online. Each artist may submit up to THREE images, but only ONE is eligible for inclusion.

FEES:
Members: $40 for the first entry, $10 for the second, $10 for the third ($40, $50, $60)

Non-Members: $80 for the first entry, $10 for the second, $10 for the third ($80, $90, $100)

PAINTING REQUIREMENTS:
Originality: The painting must be completely the artist's own original work – idea, content and composition. Reference photos must be taken only by the artist. No copies of another's work or photos, published images, copyrighted material or "free online images." Paintings cannot be done under instruction, whether online or in person. **NEW:** ***The use of AI (artificial intelligence), in any part of the process, is not permitted as it is not the original artwork of the artist.***

Watermedia / Water-base: watercolor, acrylics, gouache, casein, egg tempera, water-based ink (not water-based oil) applied in an aqueous manner (no thick paint or raised surfaces). Graphite and watercolor pencils must be dissolved. Drawing or pencil marks cannot be the main element of the painting, only as guidelines or details.

Substrate: Paper, synthetic paper like YUPO, or illustration board only.

Collage: Elements can only be hand-painted papers by the artist. Not to exceed 25% of the total surface. No metals, gold leaf, 3-D objects, giclee's, fabric or thread can be used.

PAINTING IMAGE SIZE:
NEW: Minimum IMAGE size is 11 inches, in any direction. Maximum FRAMED size: The outside maximum size is 48 inches, in any direction.

Framing: Simple, un-adorned (no carving, decorations, filets, liners, etc.) wood or metal, in natural, gold, silver, or black finish. Maximum of a 2 inch wide frame should be used. Frame must be well constructed, especially for handling and shipping. The frame must be wired for hanging with flat hardware (no saw-tooth hangers or screw eyes) with wire ends taped.

Glazing: Plexiglas is REQUIRED (for safe handling and for shipping), in good condition (no scratches or lint) and properly sized for the frame.

Mats: Acid-free white/off-white mat with white core is REQUIRED, minimum of 2 inches wide around all sides of the painted image. Multiple mats are okay. NO color liners.

Digital Entries: Prepare the image of your painting in the following manner: Take a high-quality (squared-up) photo of the painting-only (unframed painting to avoid glare) and crop it to just the image, correctly oriented (horizontal or vertical.) Open the file and change the resolution to a minimum of 300 pixels per inch, sized to a maximum of 1800 pixels on the LONGER side, saved as maximum quality, not to exceed 3 megabytes.

ENTRY PROCESS:

1. Application will be on webpage to begin Feb. 1, 2026
2. Pay the entry fee with PayPal (account or credit card)
3. You will then Email Images to: tnws.exhibitions@gmail.com.

Name the file as:
Artist Name (LastFirst)_PaintingTitle_size (HxW).
Example: DoeJane_RedTulips_20h12w.

The ENTRY FORM (including these instructions) will be on the website prior to **FEBRUARY 1, 2026** open date for entry. This allows time for you to obtain assistance if necessary. Complete the Entry Form, Be sure to click 'actual size' when attaching file to email and pay the Entry Fee to complete the process.
For help, contact the TnWS Intake Chair: Pat Patrick – Pat.C.Patrick@gmail.com

PRICING AND SALES COMMISSIONS:
Pricing: Remember to include the gallery commission when pricing your painting. The maximum sales commission being charged by one of our venues is 30%. A painting can be designated as Not For Sale (NFS) but we need the painting's value.

SALES:
A TnWS contract will be available in the event a painting is sold. This contract will be signed by the venue and the buyer and will provide contact information. The artist is responsible for negotiating shipping terms with the buyer and ensuring delivery at the close of the Exhibition or Traveling Exhibit. The painting must stay with the Exhibition and Traveling Exhibit (if the painting is chosen for the Traveling Exhibit) until the end.

EXHIBITION AWARDS:
An impressive number of cash and merchandise awards, including Best of Show, are chosen by Sterling Edwards. They will be presented to those selected at the Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony. Best of Show in 2024 was $2,000, with a $1,500 Award, a $1350 Award, a $1,200 Purchase Award and another $9,225.00 in Awards and Merchandise.

Important Award Opportunities (that must be agreed upon to accept):

Purchase Award: A Purchase Award means that the Juror selected painting/artist must agree to accept the value of the Purchase Award as payment-in-full ($1,200.00 and up) for their painting. That permission happens at the entry process. At the end of the Exhibition (and if traveling) the painting is delivered to the Sponsor. If you agree to accept the Award, it doesn't matter what the price is that you placed on the painting at entry (more or less than the $1,200.00). Permission is needed to accept the Award as payment-in-full.

Totally Transparent Watercolor Award: Artists who create their paintings using only transparent watermedia pigments, with no white pigments and using only the white of the paper, can apply for consideration for this special award.

TRAVELING EXHIBIT:
30 paintings are selected by the Juror to travel for four months. It is an honor.

West Tennessee Regional Art Center, Humboldt: Friday, July 24, 2026- Friday, Sept. 4, 2026

Pryor Gallery, Columbia: Friday, September 11, 2026 -Friday, Oct. 23, 2026

Clear Story Arts, Chattanooga: Friday, November 6, 2026 – Saturday, November 28, 2026

Traveling Exhibit Pickup: Chattanooga: Monday, November 30, 2026

FULL COLOR CATALOG AND WEBSITE:
The images of all of the accepted paintings and award winners will be displayed on the TnWS website and in the full-color exhibition catalog. All members and Sponsors receive a catalog and they are available for sale to the public at each venue.

Liability Clause: *I have carefully read all requirements listed in this prospectus and I understand that failure to meet ANY of the requirements may result in the disqualification of my entry and the possibility of ineligibility to enter future TnWS juried exhibitions for a minimum of two years.*

***Submittal of entry is considered waiver of liability for TnWS and gallery venues. A full waiver of liability statement must be signed upon acceptance.*

Signature: _____

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https://tnws.org