

2026 ANNUAL EXHIBITION CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Welcome to the Watercolour Society of Queensland's (WSQ) 2026 Annual Exhibition a celebration of 40 Years of Watercolour in Queensland! We are thrilled to invite our members to participate and showcase their talent. Please carefully review the following conditions of entry before submitting your artwork. Adherence to these conditions is mandatory for all entrants.

EXHIBITION KEY DATES & LOCATION

- **Venue:** Auditorium, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha
- **Entry Closing Date:** Monday, 31 August 2026
- **Artwork Delivery:** Tuesday, 15 September 2026, between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM
- **Opening Night:** Thursday, 17 September 2026
- **Exhibition Dates:** Friday, 18 September – Sunday, 20 September 2026
- **Artwork Collection:** Sunday, 20 September 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

ELIGIBILITY

All entrants and submitted artworks must meet the following criteria:

- **WSQ Membership:** Entrants must be a current financial member of the Watercolour Society of Queensland (WSQ) at the time of entry.
- **Originality of Artwork:**
 - Artwork must be an original creative work produced solely by the submitting artist. Reproductions (e.g., prints, giclée) are not permitted for judged categories.
 - Artwork must not be a copy or derivation of another artist's work, a photograph taken by another person, or an image sourced from publications or the internet.
 - Artwork must not have been produced during a workshop or art class or have received significant assistance, guidance, or correction from an instructor or other individual.
- **Prior Exhibition/Award Status:**
 - Artwork must not have been previously entered into any past WSQ exhibition.
 - Artwork must not have previously won any award, prize, or commendation in any public art show, exhibition, or competition (local, national, or international).
- **Availability for Sale:** All submitted artwork, including framed, unframed, miniatures, and cards, must be available for sale during the exhibition period.

CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY

- **Entry Fees:** The appropriate entry fee/s must be paid in full at the time of submission. Please refer to the "Entry Fees" section for detailed information.
- **Commission on Sales:** WSQ will retain a 25% commission on the final sale price of all artwork sold during the exhibition, across all categories (framed, unframed, miniatures, and cards).
- **Framing and Presentation:**
 - All artwork submitted for **judged categories** must be framed to professional standards. Specific requirements are detailed in the accompanying [Framing Guidelines](#)
 - Artwork for unframed and miniature categories must still adhere to archival and presentation standards, as outlined in the Framing Guidelines.
- **Artwork Reproduction Consent:** Entrants grant the Watercolour Society of Queensland permission to reproduce their submitted artwork (in whole or in part) for media, promotional,

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archival, and publicity purposes related to the 2026 Annual Exhibition and future WSQ activities, without further compensation. This may include, but is not limited to, website display, social media, print advertisements, and catalogues.

- **Care of Artwork:** While WSQ volunteers will exercise all reasonable care in handling, displaying, and storing artwork, the Watercolour Society of Queensland and its volunteers shall **not be liable for any damage or loss** of an exhibitor's artwork, regardless of the cause.
- **Artist Label (Judged Artwork):** For all **artwork**, artists must affix the official WSQ label (provided by WSQ) to the back **prior to delivering the artwork**.
- **Volunteer Contribution:** All entrants are strongly encouraged and expected to volunteer in some capacity during the Annual Exhibition. Details on volunteer roles and sign-up will be provided separately.
- **Entry Limit:** An artist may submit only 10 paintings maximum across all categories.

CATEGORIES & AWARDS

- Entrants may submit multiple artworks.
- An entrant can only be eligible for **one** of the Traditional Watercolour Category Awards (either Professional or Non-Professional). An entrant cannot be eligible for both.
- Both professional and non-professional members are eligible to enter the Open Category.
- Entrants may submit artwork in both the Traditional Watercolour and the Open Categories.

JUDGED CATEGORIES

There are three main awards in two categories as well as a Sponsor's Choice and People's Choice Award which may be selected from any Judged Category. Prizes and certificates will be announced and awarded on Opening Night, except for the People's Choice Award.

A. TRADITIONAL WATERCOLOUR CATEGORY

This category specifically recognises traditional watercolour medium techniques, irrespective of artistic style or thematic content. The Artwork must be painted predominantly with **traditional watercolour pigments** on a minimum of **300 gsm, 100% cotton, watercolour paper**. A maximum of **10%** of the artwork's surface area may be covered with gouache and/or ink. Should the WSQ Committee or Judges determine that the use of gouache or ink exceeds the **10%** allowance, the artwork will be automatically re-categorised and judged in the Non-Traditional Category.

AWARDS

The WSQ Committee trusts entrants to accurately assess their status as a professional or non-professional artist for the relevant award categories; however, criteria have been provided for guidance.

1. **WSQ Award - Professional** (First Place + 1 Runner Up)

A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST GENERALLY MEETS TWO OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Widely recognised by the broader art community as a professional artist.
- Has won first place twice or more in previous WSQ Annual Exhibitions.
- Has consistently won awards or placed regularly in other significant art exhibitions and competitions.
- Has been consistently selling artwork for several years.
- Receives payment for tutoring art classes or workshops on a regular basis.

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2. **WSQ Award - Non-Professional** (First Place + 1 Runner Up + 2nd Runner Up + 3 Highly Commended)

A NON-PROFESSIONAL ARTIST TYPICALLY MEETS MOST OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- May or may not have entered WSQ or other art competitions in the past.
- Does not regularly tutor paid art workshops or classes.
- May sell occasional painting, but not as a primary source of income.
- Has won first place only once in a previous WSQ Exhibition (if applicable).
- May have placed as a Runner-Up or received a Highly Commended award more than once in previous WSQ Exhibitions.

B. NON-TRADITIONAL WATERCOLOUR CATEGORY

This category allows for a broader range of media and surfaces, provided the artwork remains fundamentally a watercolour painting and adheres to archival quality standards e.g. salt grains are not permitted as they compromise the artwork's long-term integrity. Acrylic or oil paints are strictly NOT permitted.

Permitted surfaces include watercolour paper (minimum 300 gsm, 100% cotton), Yupo, canvas, Aquabond, and similar acid-free and stable surfaces. All artwork in this category must be suitably mounted and framed; however, canvas and Aquabond artworks may be exempt from glazing if they are correctly sealed or fixed in a floating frame.

Accepted Water-based Media include:

- Transparent watercolour pigments
- Semi-opaque or opaque watercolour pigments
- Watercolour ground
- Gouache
- Gesso (as a ground or texturiser)
- Watercolour / water soluble Inks (ensure archival and light-fastness qualities)
- High-quality watercolour pencils (e.g., Faber-Castell Albrecht Dürer, Caran d'Ache Museum Aquarelle)
- High-quality watercolour markers/brush pens (e.g., Winsor & Newton Promarker)

AWARD

This award is open to both professional and non-professional members.

1. **WSQ Open Award** (First Place + 1 Runner Up + 2nd Runner Up + 3 Highly Commended)

OTHER AWARDS (ELIGIBLE FROM ALL JUDGED CATEGORIES)

All entries submitted into the Judged Categories (Traditional Watercolour and Open) are automatically eligible for the following awards:

- **Sponsor's Choice Award:** An additional prize in any judged category, as chosen by the exhibition's primary sponsor.
- **People's Choice Award:** Determined by votes cast by exhibition visitors throughout the event. The winner will be announced on Sunday afternoon (20 September 2026) or as near to this time as practical. This award includes a certificate of recognition and small prize.

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UNFRAMED ARTWORK AND MINIATURES (NON-JUDGED)

These categories provide additional opportunities to exhibit and sell artwork; however, artworks in these categories are **not eligible for judging or awards**. Miniatures may or may not be framed. These works may be produced as either traditional or non-traditional artworks however they are still expected to follow archival and framing standards as set out above and in the Framing Guidelines.

CARDS FOR SALE (NON-JUDGED)

- **Display:** Two dedicated WSQ carousel displays will be provided: one for original cards and one for print cards.
- **Dimensions:** Cards must be standard-sized and fit into standard envelopes. Display stands can accommodate cards up to approximately 150mm wide.
- **Labelling:** Each card must have a small dot/label displaying your **initials, the price, and an 'O' for original or 'P' for print**.
- **Presentation:** Each card must be neatly presented in a clear cellophane sleeve.
- **Pricing:** Individual card pricing only; no "bundle" or multi-card discounts are permitted.
- **Quantity Management:** Entrants may bring as many cards as they wish. However, the initial display quantity will be managed to ensure an equitable number of cards from each seller, dependent on available display space. A designated box will be available at the Sales Desk for storing extra cards to replenish the carousels as needed.
- **Delivery:** Please ensure all cards are brought in a suitable storage container clearly labelled with the artist's name.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for the judged categories (framed artwork) are based on the size of the original watercolour sheet used for the painting. The maximum size for a painting (or of a similar size if using other material in the non-traditional category) is restricted to A1 or a Full Sheet size. There are no restrictions on the size of matting or the overall framed dimensions.

FRAMED ARTWORK (JUDGED CATEGORIES)

Category	Approximate Sheet Dimensions (max)	Fee
Large	Full Sheet (76 x 56 cm) OR A1 (84.1 x 59.4 cm)	\$20
Medium	Half Sheet (56 x 38 cm) OR A2 (59.4 x 42 cm) OR A3 (42 x 29.7 cm)	\$15
Small	Quarter Sheet (38 x 28 cm) OR A4 (29.7 x 21 cm)	\$10



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NON-JUDGED ARTWORK

Category	Description	Fee
Unframed Matted Originals	Any size up to a Full Sheet, presented with a mat.	\$5
Miniatures	Original paintings with a maximum surface area of 100 sq cm (e.g., 8x12.5cm, 9x11cm, 10x10cm).	No Fee
Cards		No Fee

DISCLAIMER

The Management Committee of the Watercolour Society of Queensland reserves the sole and absolute right to accept or reject any artwork submitted for the Annual Exhibition without providing justification. Their decision in this regard is final.