

## **Becoming a Signature Member**

### **Signature Member:**

Over the years the Shenandoah Valley Watercolor Society (SVWS) has gained a reputation for excellence in the Valley. Becoming a signature member of SVWS shows that your art and professionalism measures up to the standards the community has come to expect from us. A Signature Member of SVWS enjoys the privilege of hanging their art in all SVWS galleries and exhibits. Signature status is granted to member artists who have participated in a jurying process that takes place twice a year, usually in February and August. Jurying is done by members of the SVWS Standards Committee, a group of senior Signature Members of SVWS appointed by the SVWS Board. Signature Members are typically experienced artists who have exhibited and sold their works. The Society encourages all members to strive for Signature status.

### **How to qualify for applying to become a SVWS Signature Member:**

- Submit a minimum of three paintings at three different regular monthly SVWS meeting critiques
- Paintings should be current and painted within the last two years
- Work for critique cannot be framed
- Work for monthly critique must include a mat or other method of showing the artist's intention of the final image
- All water media will be considered for critique as defined by SVWS Specifications for Exhibiting under the *Mediums and Substrates Sections*.
- A minimum of one critiqued painting must be returned to a monthly meeting critique to demonstrate the artist's effort to revise/improve the result. The changes do not have to reflect the critique input but should clearly demonstrate continued work on the piece and how the artist chose to move the painting closer to completion.
- A form is available to enable the artist to document critique participation and note any feedback provided by the members

### **How to apply for Signature Member status:**

- Member must have documented information on their SVWS monthly meeting critique participation
- Member should request an application or print an application from the SVWS website
- Signature Review is held twice per year, typically in February and August or on special request to officers
- If the member has met the criteria for consideration, the officers will organize a Standards Committee and the committee will arrange the date, times, and location for the applying artist to bring their work for review and pick up after the review

### **Paintings for Review:**

- Applying member must submit four complete paintings, 1 or 2 framed and 2 or 3 matted according to the SVWS Specifications for Exhibiting
- If there are questions about the eligibility of paintings, these questions must be resolved prior to the review, not during the review
- Submitted paintings must have been completed with the last 2 years
- SVWS Standards Committee will review using the Signature Member Review Checklist for evaluating the paintings
- Signature Review Check-list is available on the website to aid the artist in understanding how paintings are evaluated
- SVWS Standards Committee will provide written communication after the review to include: acceptance/rejection regarding signature status and oral or written feedback on each of the submissions.

### **Retaining Signature Member Status:**

- Member must pay annual SVWS membership dues
- In the event a member needs a leave of absence from SVWS, a verbal notice is enough
- Signature Member status will be maintained for the member on an approved leave of absence.
- Once members achieve Signature Status, we highly recommend continued active participation in the critique process to continue to improve work

### **Master Signature Status Requirements:**

- If a current SVWS member with Signature Member status has been accepted into three or more juried water media shows, the member may apply for Master Status
- Definition of a juried show: water media art exhibition who prospectus requires a jurer to select from submitted works for inclusion in the exhibition
- Information for member to use on three juried shows: website information, printed catalogs, programs from the exhibition showing accepted pièces, copies of acceptance letters/emails