



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 SVWS. 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 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 the **SVWS Specifications for Exhibiting** under the sections "Mediums" and "Substrates"
- 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 at the end of this document for use by the artist to document critique participation and note any feedback provided by the members
- The artist working toward applying for SVWS Signature Member status is responsible for maintaining documentation of critique participation as they work towards applying for consideration as a SVWS Signature Member
- The artist should also mark on the attendance chart available at SVWS monthly meetings showing their attendance and participation in the critique

How to apply for Signature Member status:

- Member must have maintained at least 3 documents containing info on SVWS monthly meeting critique participation
- Member should request an application or print an application from the SVWS website, shenandoahvalleywatercolorsociety.org
- Application and copies of the documented critique notes should be submitted to the SVWS Board
- Signature Review is held twice per year, typically in February and August
- If the member has met the criteria for consideration, the SVWS Board will assemble a SVWS 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
- Member will not be present for the review

Paintings for Review:

- Applying member must submit four completed paintings
- Prior to applying the member should familiarize themselves with the SVWS Specifications for Exhibiting in all categories to ensure the paintings being submitted adhere to the mediums, substrates and final preparation of the finished artwork
- If there are questions about eligibility of paintings or the specifications, these questions must be resolved prior to the review, not during the review
- The four submitted paintings must have been completed within the last year
- SVWS Standards Committee will review using the Signature Member Review Checklist for evaluating the paintings
- Signature Review Checklist is available on shenandoahvalleywatercolorsociety.org 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, feedback on each of the submissions
- Once accepted as a Signature Member of SVWS, it is the responsibility of the accepted member to uphold the SVWS Specifications for Exhibiting at all SVWS sponsored exhibitions and display venues

Retaining Signature Member Status:

- Member must pay annual SVWS membership dues
- Signature members must uphold the SVWS Specifications for Exhibiting at all exhibitions and display venues
- In the event a member requires consideration of a leave of absence from SVWS, a written request must be submitted to the SVWS Board
- After review the Board will communicate the decision to the member

- Annual dues will be reduced to \$10.00 during the member's leave of absence
- Signature Member status will be maintained for the member on an approved leave of absence
- If a member leaves the organization or discontinues paying annual dues, their Signature Member status is revoked
- Rejoining SVWS will require reapplying for Signature Member status

Once members achieve Signature Status, it is highly recommend the member continue active participation in the critique process to continue to improve work.

SVWS Master Signature Status

- If a current SVWS member with Signature Member status has been accepted into three or more juried shows, the member may apply for Master Signature Status
- Definition of a juried show: art exhibition whose prospectus requires a juror 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 pieces, copies of acceptance letters/emails

SVWS Critique Documentation

Artist's Name: _____

Date of SVWS Monthly Meeting and Critique: _____

Artwork Description / Title: _____

Notes by artist on critique input: _____

All critique input is subjective. It is up to the artist to determine if the feedback and suggestions are pertinent to their work. The ultimate decision is up to the artist.

Final: Approved February 2nd, 2017