

HISTORY OF THE WATERCOLOR SOCIETY OF ALABAMA

The Watercolor Society of Alabama (WSA) was organized in 1939 and has been a continuing and vibrant influence in advancing the art of watercolor painting and has contributed to the enrichment of the cultural environment of the citizens of the State of Alabama. The Board of Directors, chaired by the president, serves two-year terms.

Yearly the society sponsors two shows, a national juried exhibition and a statewide juried showcase. The location of WSA National Annual Exhibitions changes throughout Alabama offering residents an opportunity to view collections of fine art watercolor paintings in their communities.

Most recently, the WSA National Annual Exhibitions were held at the following Alabama locations: ***Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art***, Auburn University, ***Jemison-Carnegie Heritage Hall Museum***, Talladega, ***Johnson Center for the Arts***, Troy, ***Tennessee Valley Art Association***, Tusculmbia, ***Hartselle Fine Arts Center***, Hartselle, ***Carnegie Visual Arts Center***, Decatur, ***Fairhope Arts Center***, Fairhope, and ***Alabama Center for the Arts***, Decatur. Artists from every state in the nation submit entries for the national exhibition.

WSA Members Showcases have been held at the following Alabama locations: ***Public Library***, Birmingham, ***The Alabama State Arts Council***, Montgomery, and ***Burleson Center (Hartselle Fine Arts Center)***, Hartselle. Residents of Alabama are eligible to enter this competition.

Nationally known practicing, master artists serve as selection jurors to chose paintings to be exhibited. Nationally recognized awards judges select, on exhibition site, award winning paintings. The society has been most fortunate to have continued support from businesses, art galleries and art organizations allowing WSA to offer over \$9,000 in awards. This attracts the best artists, and the exhibitions represent the best in the field of watercolor painting. Awards ceremonies during the opening receptions are at the national exhibition venue, to which the public is invited without charge.

In addition to the educational benefits of the National Exhibition and State Showcase, WSA provides for their members water media workshops taught by prominent US artists. These classes provide an opportunity for members to increase their artistic skills and knowledge.

The Watercolor Society of Alabama has had a significant impact on the arts within Alabama by encouraging and fostering support of membership. The society is one of the oldest major watercolor organizations in the nation. Because of the media coverage it receives from national art publications, WSA has attracted favorable notice for its commitment to excellence. Explore other information regarding WSA exhibitions and view the galleries on the website, www.watercolorsocietyofal.org.

