



[2022 Art of the Heartland National Competition](#)

Call for Entry opens May 26, 2022 Call for Entry deadline July 22, 2022 Accepted Artists notified by July 28, 2022 Accepted work received by Aug. 20, 2022 Show Dates Aug. 31 to Oct. 29, 2022 Awards Reception Sept. 03, 2022 Unsold work returned Nov. 2, 2022

Today we are still faced with challenges, but despite 2 years of pandemic and the current downturn in the economy, our National competitions are continuing to flourish and sales of works have increased. However, entries have slipped and we need your help to invite other artists to enter this show so that we can maintain good award amounts. In 2022 the show will continue to be held at our Mena Arkansas Art Gallery. Located in the heart of the Ouachita Mountains and National Forest at the foot of Rich Mountain and the start of the Talimena National Scenic Byway, the area is a Plein Air painters and photographer's paradise. Our goal remains to assemble paintings that represent the best of representative American Art and depict the things that make America great.

Changes to the following are presented in bold print

Eligibility All of the United States, Canada, their provinces and territories. Artists must be 18 years of age or older.

Awards Best in Show: \$4,000

1st Place: \$1,100

2nd Place: \$ 500

3rd Place: \$ 300

Arkansas Artist \$1,000 (special Van Wolf award to an Arkansas artist.)

People's Choice \$ 100

Judge - The awarding judge is Lee Alban OPA, NOAPS, SWA, a professional long-established member of the national art community.

Liabilities and Responsibilities - Southwest Artists, Inc. and/or the Mena Art Gallery will not be responsible for loss or damage of any art work, no matter what the cause. By submitting art work to this exhibition, each artist agrees to this statement. Art work is not insured by SWA/Mena Art Gallery during shipment and exhibition. Adequate insurance is recommended and the sole responsibility of the artist.

Painting Specifications

- All entries must be the original work of the artist created after **May 1, 2017** and done without the supervision of an instructor; mechanical copy aides; or computer programs.
- No replicas of any portion of another artist's published or copyrighted work may be included.
- No photographs or over-painted photographs or prints. No digital images or any form of print or reproductions will be accepted.
- Nude subjects must be conservative, in short, not revealing more than one might see in a bikini.
- **Image size must be no larger than 38" in any direction excluding the frame.** It must be wired and ready to hang (no saw tooth hangers.) It is recommended that paintings requiring glazing be under acrylic (i.e. Plexiglas), although glass is also accepted at the risk of the artist. SWA assumes no responsibility for breakage or static damage. Pastel artists should provide sufficient spacing between image and glazing to avoid static charge, using acrylic glazing at their own risk. Gallery wrap is acceptable.
- All work must be for sale and reflect the artist's current pricing structure.

Acceptable work must be two dimensional only. Mediums are not restricted.

Advisory - The SWA exhibition committee and/or the jurors reserve the right to eliminate any paintings that fail to comply with the listed criteria before the exhibition's opening. Artists may not substitute another work, change the sale price from what was shown on the entry form or withdraw accepted works before the close of the exhibition. The SWA Mena Art Gallery reserves the right to refuse any work they deem unacceptable for their venue. No refund applies.

Dates for submission of electronic entries are: **May 26 to July 22, 2022**. (No printed photo or slide entries will be accepted.) Digital Images should be a minimum of 1920 pixels at the smallest dimension. They may be a maximum of 5 MB in size.

To submit your electronic application and Images go to:

<https://www.smarterentry.com/CallsForEntry/SWA>

It may be necessary to register with SmarterEntry.com if you are not a member. Registration is free of charge. The artist retains copyright to his/her image(s). However, accepted images will become part of SWA archives and may be used for this or future SWA event promotions.

Entry Fees - The fee for electronic entries is \$45 for the first entry and \$25 for each additional entry.

Signature Membership status may be earned by member artists after they have been accepted into three SWA National Exhibitions or have won Awards in two SWA National Exhibitions. Signature Status may also be earned by artists who have won three or more awards in SWA Ouachita Expressions Regional Exhibitions. To retain status, membership must remain current. It is the responsibility of the artist to make the request after qualifications have been met. Qualifying artists may request a Signature Membership application by calling the gallery or by email.

Sales Expenses – Artists will receive 70% of the sales price and SWA will retain 30%. Please take this into consideration when setting your price. All work submitted must be for sale. No NFS paintings.

Delivery and Return of Accepted Work - Artists pay for shipping and insurance both ways. We recommend artists make arrangements to insure their work for its full value. Paintings accepted by the jurors should be sent **via FedEx or UPS** to arrive by **August 20, 2022** to the following address. **USPS does NOT deliver to the Gallery.**

SouthWest Artists, Inc.
c/o Mena Art Gallery
607 Mena Street
Mena, AR 71953

Paintings shipped to this exhibition must include a prepaid, return shipping label containing the carrier's bar code so that unsold paintings can be returned at the end of the exhibition. Carriers will reimburse for unused labels. Paintings from outside of the USA must be shipped Free Domicile.

Delivery for Local Artists - Deliver uncrated paintings to the Mena Art Gallery between **Aug. 24 and 27**. Please provide some means of protection for your art while awaiting hanging. Hand delivered work must be picked up between **Nov. 2 and Nov. 5, 2022** unless other arrangements are made in advance. Due to limited storage space, paintings remaining after Nov 12 may become the property of SWA.

Notification of Acceptance – Letters of acceptance and shipping instructions will be emailed to all artists whose work has been accepted. Please add our email address to your contacts so notices will not be routed to your Spam filter: email@menaartgallery.org Artists whose work has not been accepted will also be notified by email. Submitting a work of art to this exhibition shall constitute an agreement on the part of the artist to comply fully with the conditions and terms set forth in this Prospectus. No fee refunds will be made on unaccepted entries. The results of the jury will be final.

Mena Art Gallery: 479-394-3880, email@menaartgallery.org

Questions may be addressed to:

Show Chair: Sandra Thomas at skthomas1961@gmail.com