

# SRAL EXHIBITIONS' CRITERIA FOR ARTWORK

## Characteristics of Acceptable Artwork:

- For juried, judged, or open exhibits only artwork originally conceived using the artist's own reference, own drawing, own concept and self-painted will be accepted.
  - Artwork that is produced in a school, school-monitored studio, workshop or under the supervision of an instructor including online is not considered "original."
  - Artwork produced in a SIG meeting or Mini Workshop where instruction is provided, or a formal teaching session is not considered "original."
  - Artwork produced in all other SIG meetings are considered "original."
- Only original artwork created **within the last 3 years** will be accepted for juried, judged, or open exhibits.
- Artwork created in workshops can be submitted to the Permanent Shows at Canoa Hills or Desert Hills, a private show at a GVR center, or another SRAL show that does not give ribbons or awards.
- **Use of Photography:** If the artist is using other than their own photos the artist may be asked by a show chairperson or Board member to submit written proof of permission to use their reference. To use photos downloaded from the Internet the artist needs to purchase an Extended Print License, not just a Standard Royalty free license. Please read the product licensure for each website to ascertain if you have the correct license.
- **Use of Printed and Copyrighted Materials:** The copyright laws regarding the use of printed materials in art, such as collage, are murky and confusing. All artists who use printed materials must enlighten themselves about "Fair use" of materials and decide if they are violating copyright. Refer to the Copyright Law paragraph listed below.
- Unless a painting is gallery-wrapped on a 1-1/2" deep canvas (or greater), it must be acceptably framed.
  - The frame is not damaged nor held together with tape.
  - The frame has good, mitered joints. The frame is strong enough to take moderate handling.
  - Artwork is securely attached to the frame with off-set clips, fitting clips, push-pin clips, or framing nails.
- If the artwork surface is fragile (e.g., watercolor, gouache, pastel, charcoal, pencil), it should be protected with one of the following:
  - A glass or acrylic (e.g., Plexiglas) cover
  - A fixative
  - Cold wax
- If any dimension is greater than 36 inches, a glass cover is not allowed.
- Artwork must be dry and odor-free.
- The entire piece of artwork should not exceed 20 lbs. in weight.

## Acceptable Artwork:

Original artwork that is acceptable for a SRAL event may include but is not limited to the following:

**Wet Media**

Watercolor  
Egg tempera  
Encaustic  
Oil (including water soluble)  
Acrylics (including gels)  
Collage  
Inks

**Prints**

Etchings & engravings  
Wood & lino cuts  
Silk screen  
Lithographs  
Monotype

**Dry Media**

Pastel  
Pencil  
Charcoal  
Prismacolor

**Unacceptable Artwork**

The following art forms are not acceptable for inclusion in a SRAL of GVR event:

- Three-dimensional art, where the depth is greater than one inch above the substrate.
- Photography
- Fabric art
- Computer-generated art
- Combines and/or assemblages.
- Giclee printing forms
- Any artwork that is NOT amenable to hanging on a wall

**Hardware Characteristics for Heavy Wall Frames:**

- Hanging hardware shall consist of stranded or coated wire passed twice through screw eyes and twisted at least eight times or the wire attached with a ferrule (compression fitting).
- If using screw eyes, the screw eyes should not push the frame away from the wall, e.g., it should be mounted on the inside of the stretcher bars.
- Screw eyes or D-rings should be 1/3 down from the top of the artwork and the wire 2 to 4 inches from the top of the artwork when stretched taut.

**Hardware Characteristics for Lightweight Wall Frames:**

- When using a lightweight frame which is usually used for watercolors, gouaches, pastels, ink drawings, pencils, etc., it is acceptable to use the hanging equipment provided by the manufacturer of the frame. However, the wire should be 2 to 4 inches from the top of the artwork when stretched taut.
- For artwork that lies close to the wall (e.g., box frames and cradleboards), sawtooth hangers are acceptable for lighter weight art pieces as they hug the board close to the wall.

If you have questions about acceptable art or hardware, please contact the chairperson in charge of the event.

**Copyright Law:**

As visual artists it is in our best interest to educate ourselves about copyright law. We hope you find these resources helpful in that endeavor.

The US Copyright Office

<https://www.copyright.gov/>

(helpful links at their site)

<https://www.copyright.gov/what-is-copyright/>

<https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-fairuse.html#howmuch>

The Copyright Society of the USA

"Advancing the Study and Understanding of Copyright Law Since 1953"

<https://www.csusa.org/>

(helpful links at their site)

<https://www.csusa.org/page/FAQs>

<http://www.copyrightkids.org/cbasicsframes.htm>