



Plagiarism

For its annual exhibition, Watercolor West is looking for originality. Plagiarism—to take ideas, images, writings etc. from another and pass them off as one’s own—is not an original piece. The problem has increased with the easy access to the web and digital material. The lines of authorship have become more blurred. Here are some guidelines.

Watercolor West's prospectus in the Eligibility section clearly states that "Entries must be original and not a copy or likeness of another's work." Entries cannot be someone else's "intellectual property." That includes any work done in a workshop or class assignment under a teacher’s direction. It has to be your own thought, idea, composition and image. It cannot be a direct copy of a photograph—unless you took the photo yourself—or a copy of other artists' creative work (their paintings and/or their photographs) or an image from a magazine, newspaper, or the web.

Not everyone is a good photographer. You may need to use a reference photograph for clarity or detail. Use photographs with caution. **DO NOT COPY.** You are the artist, use your own inspiration and creative skills to make your art work your very own.

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