

## ELECTION OF RWS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS APPLICATION PACK 2020

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in joining the Royal Watercolour Society as an Associate Member. Founded in 1804, the RWS is the oldest watercolour society in the world and is bestowed with Royal patronage from Her Majesty the Queen. The Society is based at Bankside Gallery in London, with an additional premises near Trafalgar Square expected to open in the near future.

If elected, you will enjoy full Membership benefits, including two major group exhibitions and two joint exhibitions with the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers at Bankside Gallery each year, as well as other opportunities to exhibit and sell your work through Bankside Gallery and other venues. Your work will be publicised through the Society's website, and there are opportunities to run courses, have your work used for publicity, and to become involved in Society activities.

After submission of your online application, a shortlist of applicants will be pre-selected and invited to deliver three framed, glazed paintings and a portfolio of supporting work to be judged by RWS Members. If elected, you will become an Associate Member of the RWS. Full Membership is achieved by Election at an RWS Annual General Meeting, if there is a vacancy.

This application pack contains all the information you need to know on how to apply and details regarding the election procedure. Please read through it carefully.

Good luck and we look forward to receiving your application.  
Best Wishes,



**Jill Lemman PRWS**

President of the Royal Watercolour Society

## Election of RWS Associate Members 2020

### Application Pack

#### Before you apply

Being elected as a member of the RWS is a long term commitment which should not be entered into lightly. Before you apply please be aware of and understand the following:

- Annual subscription fees currently stand at £300 per annum which must be paid in January each year. If you do not pay your subscription fee, your membership risks being revoked.
- RWS artists are given the opportunity to exhibit up to 4 framed works in 4 exhibitions per year, as well as having 6 mounted works in the Bankside Gallery browsers at any one time. Artists should aim to participate in all of these exhibitions. If a newly elected artist does not exhibit in at least 2 exhibitions per year, their membership is at risk of being revoked.
- Above all the RWS is an artist cooperative and we rely on the help and input from our membership to move forward. You will be expected to participate / provide assistance with things such as council activities, education, stewarding, demonstrations, marketing, etc, as well as regularly attending RWS Private Views and social events.

#### Eligibility

Professional artists working in water-based media (including watercolour, pen & ink, gouache and acrylic – or a combination) may apply for Associate Membership of the RWS, providing they do not belong to another London watercolour society. Members are required to submit work for sale to the Society's exhibitions on a regular basis and pay annual submission fees of £300.

**It is highly recommended that artists considering applying for membership have previously exhibited in the RWS Contemporary Watercolour Competition. See our website for further information on how to enter**

<https://www.royalwatercoloursociety.co.uk/competition>

#### How to Apply

1. Fill out the online application form, upload a minimum of 3 images (to provide an example of your work), and pay the £40 fee by **Monday 17 February, 11.59pm** <http://www.royalwatercoloursociety.co.uk/election/entry/>
2. Wait to hear via email whether you have been shortlisted. Applicants will be notified of the shortlist by **6pm on Monday 24 February**. Please check your spam folder if you have not received an email notification by this date.
3. If you have been shortlisted, prepare 3 framed and glazed paintings and a portfolio and deliver to Bankside Gallery on **Friday 20 March, 11am-7pm**.
4. If you have not been shortlisted then your application has been unsuccessful on this occasion.

#### Shortlisted Applicants

##### Framed Paintings

- All work must be on paper (or a paper-based support) and must have been painted within the past four years.
- Your paintings must be professionally framed and glazed, and must not exceed 1.5m x 1.5m.
- Please ensure each painting is clearly labelled on the back with your name, title of the work, medium and price (see below).
- All submitted paintings must be available for sale - **if you are elected, the RWS will choose one of your framed paintings for the RWS Diploma Collection**. The remaining two paintings will be exhibited for sale in the RWS Spring Exhibition at Bankside Gallery (Friday 27 March – Saturday 25 April). During RWS exhibitions, a commission of 35% + VAT is taken on all sales.

#### Portfolio

This can include a maximum of 12 finished and mounted works as well other evidence of background work; bound or collated studies, drawings or sketchbooks to support your application.

Portfolios must be clearly labelled with your name on the outside, and each item should have your name written on it in pencil.

**Please do not include any additional written information such as a CV or artist statement, all the information that the Members need is in the online application form that you will have already filled out.**

### Delivering Your Work

#### **Deliver your framed paintings and portfolio to Bankside Gallery on Friday 20 March, 11am-7pm**

On arrival at the Gallery you will be asked to un-wrap your paintings, sign a delivery sheet and to take your packing material away with you. You may arrange for a representative or professional art courier to deliver your paintings on Friday 20 March. They must un-wrap your paintings, take all packing material and sign the delivery sheet on your behalf. Paintings may not be delivered on any other date, and will not be accepted by Royal Mail, FedEx, non-art courier or by taxi.

**Please note:** Great care will be taken when handling applicants' work, but neither the Royal Watercolour Society nor Bankside Gallery can take responsibility for any damage to, or loss of work submitted. Submission for this election implies acceptance of this disclaimer and those who are concerned are advised to insure their work.

### The Election Process

The Election will take place on Saturday 21 March, when Members of the Society carefully view each applicant's work. New Associate Members are elected by majority in a secret vote.

### Results and Collecting Your Work

**Results will be sent to you via email on Saturday 21 March, after the Election has taken place.**

**All Applicants should collect their work from Bankside Gallery on Sunday 22 March, 11am – 5pm.**

### Successful Applicants

- If you have been elected you will only need to take your portfolio away with you; your framed paintings will remain at the Gallery for the RWS Spring Exhibition and one will be selected to remain in the RWS Diploma Collection.
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### Unsuccessful Applicants

- Unsuccessful applicants will need to collect your three framed paintings and portfolio. If you are unable to come to the Gallery in person, you should send a representative or engage a professional art courier. They should bring a signed letter from you authorising us to release your paintings. All paintings will be available to collect unwrapped, so you or your representative are advised to bring any packing material required. Work cannot be collected on any other date. If the above date is inconvenient you may wish to consider using Art Moves of Chelsea to collect and store your paintings. They can be contacted on 020 7352 7492 for advice on prices and delivery. No work can be returned through Royal Mail, FedEx, non-art couriers, or by taxi.
- Due to the number of applicants, no feedback can be provided to those who are unsuccessful. All decisions are final.
- We will keep you informed of exhibitions, events and elections, and welcome you to apply again in the future; the standard of entry is very high and many valued Members were not elected on their first attempt.

### Uncollected Work

Any paintings left at the Gallery after 5pm on Sunday 22 March will be removed by Art Moves of Chelsea. You would need to contact them on 020 7352 7492 to make an appointment to collect your work and pay their storage fee of £20 per work, per week (part or whole) with an additional £5 for every additional week in storage.

## New Associate Members

- Newly elected Associates will receive a letter from the RWS President welcoming them to the Society. They will also be sent a registration pack confirming the details of their Associate Membership and requesting a payment of £150 to cover part of the annual subscription up until 2021. The annual subscription fee, billed on 1 January, is currently £300.
- At the end of the exhibition the paintings in the Spring Exhibition should be collected on or after 26 April.

## Dates

**Monday 17 February, 11.59pm** | Application Deadline

Monday 24 February, by 6pm | Applicants will be notified as to whether they have been shortlisted

**Friday 20 March, 11am-7pm** | Shortlisted applicants deliver work to Bankside Gallery

**Saturday 21 March** | Judging Day and Results sent to Applicants via email

**Sunday 22 March, 11am-5pm** | Collection of work from Bankside Gallery

**Thursday 26 March, 6 – 8pm** | RWS Spring Exhibition Private View, Bankside Gallery

For Newly Elected Associates: **Sunday 26 April, 11am – 5pm** | Collection of unsold work from the RWS Spring Exhibition & Spring Lunch