

THE SPRING MEMBER SHOW OF THE LOUISIANA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

At the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge

3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Exhibition Dates: March 2 - March 30, 2026



JUDGE: Donna McGee, LWS-M

Donna McGee, LWS-M, received a Bachelor of Science in Art Education from Mississippi State University in 1974 and a Master of Fine Arts in Studio – Painting and Drawing from Louisiana Tech University in 1993. She works in oil, watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media painting. For over 30 years she taught drawing, design, and painting (beginning – advanced) at the university level. During this time, she also became a popular workshop instructor and teacher for private lessons. Donna's award winning work has been exhibited in over 80 international, national, and regional juried exhibitions.

Look for a feature on Donna and her work by John Kemp in the Jan-Feb issue of Louisiana Life. Donna's love of the outdoors inspires her work. She explores, "just to see what lies ahead; the rhythm of walking and breathing; the sound of wind and water; the feel of the earth beneath my feet; the smell of leaf mold and flowers; and glimpses of insects, birds and animals become a part of my work." She says that painting en plein air is her means of gathering information about the natural world: "We are meant to live responsibly, to protect and preserve the world in which we live. Nature is a way to connect with something basic and enduring, but always changing."



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Louisiana Watercolor Society accepts *original, water-based paintings on paper or wood panels prepared to accept water media.*

Original:

- Paintings must have been completed after January 1, 2023. We are not obliged to notify the artist of works that are submitted outside the acceptable timeframe.
- No painting or duplicate painting may be submitted to another exhibition – in-person or virtual -- that overlaps with any part of the LWS Exhibit.
- Paintings must be the sole work of the artist; they cannot be completed in workshops or classes or under supervision.
- No copies of another artist's work are allowed.
- Only original two-dimensional hand-painted entries are allowed: No photographs, photocopies, prints, giclées, or work generated/assisted by artificial intelligence (AI).
- If photo references are used, the photo must have been taken by the artist.
- No work previously shown in any prior LWS international exhibition is allowed.
- No work other than the accepted work may be submitted.
- Artists who violate the originality rules may be banned from entering any LWS competition for a period of two years.

Water-based:

- Watercolor is the preferred medium.
- Acrylic, casein, gouache, water-based ink, and egg tempera are allowed if used in the style of watercolor without any impasto (i.e., paint build-up). Water-soluble oils are not allowed.

Substrates:

- Acceptable substrates are natural or synthetic paper, or panels prepared to accept water media.
- Substrates must be two-dimensional only – no collage, paint buildup, glued-on items, etc. that raise the surface.
- No other surfaces are accepted.

Framing:

- All works must be framed and EITHER 1) under clear plexiglass or other framing-grade acrylic OR 2) finished with archival quality sealant.
- Cradled board is an acceptable frame.
- Wire and screw-eye or D-ring must be attached for hanging.
- Frames, if used, must be neutral in color [see further details here].
- Mats, if used, must be white or off-white.

- Diptychs and triptychs must be in a single frame.
- Minimum image size is 8" X 10".
- Maximum frame size is 45" in any direction.
- Maximum framed weight is 15 pounds.

Entry:

- Please enter titles of paintings online so that labels can be created. Jpgs are not required for this show, but if you want your paintings to be considered for social media posting, please also submit jpgs. File size cannot exceed 5MB and must be at least 1200 pixels. JPGs must be cropped to show only the image – no frame or mat -- and must be oriented correctly (vertical or horizontal).
- Artists may submit up to 3 paintings.

Fees:

\$ 25 1 – 3 entries

*Non-members may enter now by joining LWS for the annual membership rate of \$40.

* All entry fees are non-refundable.

Accepted entries:

- Hand-delivered framed paintings ready for hanging must be brought to the Louisiana State Archives Gallery on March 2, 2026 from 9 to 11 am.

Release of Liability

- Although the utmost care will be taken in handling works of art, neither LWS and/or LWS's representatives nor the Louisiana State Archives will be responsible for damage or loss, whatever the cause. Accepted artists release LWS, LWS's representatives, and the Louisiana State Archives from all liability with respect to loss or damage to the artist's works of art. It is suggested that artists carry their own insurance, in proper limits.
- 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 as well as in the Acceptance Form.
- By entering, you agree that LWS assumes the reproduction rights of paintings in the exhibit for display on louisianawatercolorsociety.org, in the LWS catalog, on social media platforms, and for promotion of the LWS International Exhibit.

Sales

- There is no commission on sales.

Awards

- 1st Place \$150, 2nd Place \$100, 3rd Place \$75, 2 Honorable Mentions \$40 each, and 2 Merit Awards worth \$20 in cash or merchandise..

Calendar

Entries due online	March 1, 2026
Entries to be delivered to LA State Archives	March 2, 2026, 9-11 am
Exhibit opens	March 3, 2026
Awards & Reception	March 12, 2026, 5-7 pm
Last day of exhibit	March 30, 2026
Pick-up hand delivered paintings	March 31, 2026, 9-11 am

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