

GAC - Preparing for a Juried Show

The Garibaldi Art Club hosts an annual juried art show as well as an annual non-juried show. There are also opportunities to display art at other community events. Not all club members participate in the juried shows, but for those who choose this option, here are some helpful considerations.

Reasons for Having Juried Shows

The Garibaldi Art club has staged many annual juried shows and will continue to do so. There are two main reasons for doing this. The primary reason is that juried shows help artists of all skill levels develop their artistic abilities. Also, many artists look to building their art resumes through participation in these events.

Themes

Our juried shows are always centred around a theme. It's very important to keep the theme in mind as you paint, and to have your subject matter clearly reflect it. Obscure linkage will not be your friend, as you will not be on hand during jurying to explain unclear connections. Jurors are given a club criteria sheet to use as a guide, and adherence to the show theme is a strong expectation for them as well as for you.

Accepted Forms of Art

The Garibaldi Art Club is a fine art club, and as such limits acceptable types and media of work. Check the club handbook to make sure you are aware of your options and limitations. Note that art must be also acceptable for viewing by a community audience.

Previous Showings

There are limitations about where the submitted works have previously been on display. It is important to operate within those guidelines. Please refer to the Club handbook.

Time Constraints

For juried shows, there is a time frame within which the work must have been painted. Usually this is within the last two years. Make sure your art has been created within the specified time frame.

Originality

All paintings exhibited must be original works, derived from the artist's own imagination, sketches or photographs, unless permission for the use of someone else's reference materials has been obtained beforehand, and as long as an original work has been created from this reference material. Please see the Club handbook for more details.

Quality Materials

Try to invest in the best quality materials you are able to afford. (Student grade materials are not the best as they often include inexpensive fillers.)

Composition

No matter the style of art or the medium used, having a quality composition is really important. There is a lot of information available online and in books to help you.

Assistance with Critiquing

We have open painting sessions where you may be able to get helpful feedback from your peers in the Club. When possible, a critique workshop is held prior to a juried show, where artists can either submit works for feedback or observe the process without directly participating themselves.

For lots of tips and ideas on self-critiquing, enter the keyword phrase 'self-critiquing visual art' on your computer. You'll have lots of information to work with!

Critiquing Specifics

Below, we have attached some specific criteria for you to use as a self-help guide. This list is not exhaustive but will point you in the right direction for critiquing your own work before submitting it to a show. A lot of this content has been loosely adapted from the Federation of Canadian Artists guidelines, and certainly covers the basics of creating quality art.

Design – Is the composition interesting, and does it work?

Drawing – if creating realistic art, the foundation drawing should be accurate so that the viewer is able to appreciate the work as being true to life.

Values – are there areas of both darks and lights to add interest? If there are light and shadowed areas, are they as accurate?

Colour – is the use of colour interesting, impactful, and skillful? It is often helpful to have a balance of warm as well as cool tones, and neutral colour along with intense, saturated colour.

Visual Impact – does the art piece grab and hold your attention?

Paint Application – does the artist show skill in using the medium? Is the paint applied confidently?

Concept – is the artist doing something innovative, interesting, or original?

Framing

It is in your best interest to present your art as favourably as possible in a good frame. It should complement but not overpower the work. Although the framing is not a primary consideration for judging, it is hard to get a good recommendation for a beautiful work which is framed poorly or unattractively.

Matting

Jurors' preferred option for matting is either ivory or white. Coloured matting is viewed as less desirable, and some galleries will not accept other colours.

Hanging Hardware

The art needs to be properly wired on the back and supported with appropriate 'contemporary' hardware. Please refer to the Club handbook for guidance.

Unframed Works

Our club still allows thin canvases to be displayed without a frame, but framing is recommended for a more professional appearance. All unframed canvases must have the edges painted or neatly taped with no staples showing. Wires must be mounted on the back for hanging. It is important to note that although our club will accept thin unframed canvases, many galleries will not, so this becomes a consideration when our juried show is held in a gallery instead of a local hall. Therefore, be aware that if you submit a thin, unframed canvas for consideration in a juried gallery show, it may not be accepted.

Labelling

There are specific instructions about how art work must be labelled before being accepted for jurying. Check the submission forms and make sure your art is labelled according to the instructions.

Jurying Timelines

We pay jurors to come and assess the artwork. Because of this, we operate within strict timelines to respect the work these jurors do. Your work must be delivered to the venue by the exact deadline. Jurors start jurying right on time, and any art arriving late will not be accepted. Also, be prepared to have non-accepted works picked up within the allotted time later in the day.

Juried Show Etiquette

As you wait for jurying to end so you can be informed of the status of your submitted art, please bear in mind that it is not acceptable to initiate interactions with the jurors to seek feedback about your art or to ask questions and advice. The club has a formalized process for gathering information about the jurying process once it's completed. The club secretary will meet with the jurors and gather feedback to bring back and share with club members at the next general meeting. It's important for you to respect this process.

The Disappointment Factor

Submitting your art for judging can be a daunting process. You have worked hard and are hopeful the work will be accepted. Be prepared for disappointment! By definition, a juried show means there will be more artwork submitted than can be accepted for display, and jurying art is a very subjective process. It is important to be philosophical about the process and to not get overly frustrated if your work is declined.

In closing, relax and enjoy your art as you work on it, and accept and celebrate the journey it takes once it's completed. No matter what, enjoy the journey!

GAC Framing and Presentation Criteria

The Garibaldi Art Club hosts annual juried art shows as well as assorted other non-juried shows and events. Not all club members participate in the juried shows, but for those who choose this option, here are some helpful considerations.

Framing

It is in your best interest to present your art as favourably as possible in a good frame. It should complement but not overpower the work. Although the framing is not a primary consideration for judging, it is hard to get a good recommendation for a beautiful work which is framed poorly or unattractively.

Hanging Hardware

The art needs to be properly wired on the back and supported with appropriate 'contemporary' hardware. There are clear guidelines for how this should be done and lots of available supporting information. It is not expensive to buy good hanging wire and D-rings.

Matting

There are many tempting choices and options for matting your art before framing. However, the jurors' preferred option is either ivory or white. Coloured matting is viewed as less desirable, and some galleries will not accept other colours. It's something to bear in mind as you do your planning.

Unframed Works

Canvases come in various thicknesses. 'Thin' canvases show better in a frame and look more professional. Our club still allows thin canvases to be displayed without a frame, but all edges must be painted or neatly taped before being accepted for a show. The same general display guidelines apply for thick canvases, but they do not need to be framed. It is important to note that though our club will accept thin unframed canvases, many galleries will not, so this becomes a consideration when our juried show is held in a gallery instead of a local hall. Therefore, be aware that if you submit a thin, unframed canvas for consideration in a juried gallery show, it may be dismissed out of hand.

Labelling

Usually there are specific instructions about how art works must be labelled before being accepted for jurying. Check the submission forms and make sure your art is labelled according to the instructions.