



Fact Sheet

Women Painters West is celebrating its ninety-fifth year as one of Southern California's leading non-profit, 501(c) (3) art associations. The membership consists of two hundred professional women painters working in all mediums and styles. The organization's members are nationally and internationally recognized and consistently exhibit in galleries, museums and universities.

MISSION

The Women Painters West mission is to nurture women painters by providing educational, arts networking, and charitable opportunities with an emphasis on elevating creative standards, and providing exhibition venues for a diverse group of professional artists.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

WPW is committed to supporting the artistic and professional growth of its membership by:

- Providing active fellowship and educational programs for professional painters wishing to grow creatively and to increase productivity in a supportive artistic community;
- Maintaining high standards of work by requiring a juried selection process for both membership and exhibit participation;
- Enhancing members' professional profiles and public exposure by offering quality exhibit venues;
- And, providing philanthropic aid contributing to the development of emerging artists (students) and the arts community.

HISTORY

Founded in 1921 in Laguna Beach, Women Painters West was created to offer Southern California women artists an inclusive fellowship based on educational, benevolent, fraternal, and charitable objectives. Many of the founding members were among the best and most enduring early California women artists; including notables: Mabel Alvarez, Kathryn Leighton, Elsie Palmer Payne and Donna Norine Schuster. Early member's work was featured at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage special exhibition *Independent Spirits — Women Painters of the American West, 1890-1945*.

For ninety-five years, WPW has served the arts community and women artists with a host of public exhibitions, lectures, and programs to nurture and showcase the historically overlooked work of female painters.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is by application and submission of three examples of original artwork. Acceptance is awarded annually through a screening process conducted by a jury panel elected by the active membership. The current membership numbers around two hundred.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The hallmark of Women Painters West is its consistent delivery of exceptional programs, exhibits, and networking opportunities.

- **Luncheon Meetings** provide members the opportunity to connect with other artist, make friends, and collaborate. The guest speaker program presents renowned artists, gallery owners, and arts professionals who speak about their experiences in the art world and offer in-depth dialog with the members. The luncheons also provide a forum for announcing news regarding openings, new work, and exhibit opportunities.
- **Field Trips:** exclusive tours of well-known artist's studios, galleries, and museum exhibitions provide access to the dynamic Los Angeles art scene.
- **Philanthropy:** WPW supports emerging artists by providing scholarships to exceptional students to further their education and creative development. Outreach programs include philanthropic assistance to community art programs.

Exhibits

Throughout the year, members are provided opportunities to showcase their work in galleries, museums, and other art centers. All exhibits employ an independent juror process for acceptance to shows. Jurors are selected from outside the organization and are prominent in the art establishment. Jim Morphesis, Bill Bush, Ellie Blankfort, Deanna Izen Miller, and Ann Thornycroft are among the jurors we have used in recent years. The juror selects awards at the event opening.

Some of the museums and galleries that the group has been invited to exhibit are: Arena 1 Gallery, FIVE08 Gallery, L.A. Artcore's Brewery Annex, Artspace Gallery, Pacific Asia Museum, Art Institute of Southern California, Orlando Gallery, Brand Library Art Gallery, Whole 9 Gallery, San Bernardino County Museum, Finegood Art Gallery, Long Beach Art Gallery, Valley Institute of Visual Art (VIVA), Lancaster Museum of Art, Segil Fine Art Gallery, Schomberg Gallery

For more information www.womenpainterswest.org.