



We are thrilled to launch our 80th year at ArtCenter Manatee with new exhibits – both curated & open juried shows.

Our Exhibit Schedule has something for everyone. We have many groups such as Pen Women, The Exhibiting Society of Artists, Lakewood Ranch Painters, International Society of Acrylic Painters, Florida Suncoast Watercolor and American Watercolor Society Traveling Exhibit. We also have the talented artist & instructor Dylan Pierce, whose amazing talent defies his age.

We are offering eight open juried shows this year created to give you the opportunity to compete, display and sell your work. We always title our shows but please know the title (except the 12x12 show coming up) is a guide, not a mandatory theme. No work is excluded because it is not within the thematic parameters.

Our ever popular Open Juried Shows bring us a beautiful opportunity to learn. Learn about what others are doing, to learn about how you, the artist, are faring in the art world and to learn what techniques are trending or changing in art. As the art world is challenged with the ever-changing digital environment and exposure to not only others' artwork but to images copied or purchased, it requires that the artist truly look at where they obtain inspiration and what is acceptable.

As we begin our new exhibition calendar, I ask you to review the guidelines. Entry fees are non-refundable. Entries must be the original design of the artist completed in the last 3 years (5 years for sculpture). Class projects are unacceptable except in the Student Show. When competing in shows, copies of someone else's design or source material that is not your own (even if purchased) is not acceptable.

I ask you to consider that our role as an educational institution is to remind that we are all learning – to be better artists – to be better human beings. A desire to copy someone else's images for juried shows should be a red flag for us to review our intention. Are we getting caught up in competition, do we feel devoid of originality or simply thinking it is the "easy way?" As human beings we are going to always make mistakes. In fact, I believe they are a wonderful tool to becoming whole. But possibly, if we continue to ask ourselves these types of questions, we will find it is never worth the diminishment of our own creative journey to copy – no matter what the immediate gain. It is an impossible task for us to police all entries. It is left to you, the artist, to live honorably.

As always, there's LOTS of learning going on at ArtCenter Manatee! So with that said, it is always exciting to see what you have created. I encourage you to join the fun – these open shows are for you!

12x12 – Receiving October 1st
Art of the Heart – Receiving October 29th
Have a Seat – Receiving October 29th
Wonders of the World – Receiving December 3rd
Student Show – Receiving February 25th
Member Show – Receiving March 25th
Fur, Feathers, Flora & Fauna – Receiving June 24th (back by popular demand!)

Warm Regards,

Carla Nierman
Executive Director