

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Aquarius

2026

February 19 – March 30, 2026

Submissions open: December 1, 2025

Deadline: Midnight, January 4, 2026

Art Center Morro Bay
835 Main Street, Morro Bay, CA 93442

Juror of Selection and Awards: Michael Reardon

Michael Reardon has been painting in watercolor for over thirty years. An avid traveler, he uses watercolor to record his observations, convey a sense of place and light, and communicate his impressions of the built, natural, and imagined worlds. He works from his studio in Oakland, California.

In 2005 he was the recipient of the prestigious Gabriel Prize from the Western European Architecture Foundation, which enabled him to spend three months painting in Paris. Originally trained as an architect with a degree in architecture from UC Berkeley, he was an architectural illustrator for over thirty years. In 2004 he was awarded the Hugh Ferriss Memorial Prize, the premier award in the field of architectural illustration.

His watercolors have been exhibited nationally and internationally, including the annual shows of the National Watercolor Society, the American Watercolor Society, and the California Art Club. In 2011 he presented a solo show at the Thomas Reynolds Gallery in San Francisco. He is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, Watercolor West, and the California Watercolor Association. He is also the author of *Watercolor Techniques: Painting Light and Color in Landscapes and Cityscapes* from North Light Books.

<https://mreardon.com/>

Purpose: Aquarius 2026 California Exhibition features excellence in watermedia painting, representing a variety of subject matter and technique, from traditional to experimental, and encourages appreciation for watermedia painting as a vital, enduring, and expressive art form.

CCWS Membership: Monthly meetings include demos/presentations by local artists and are held the last Tuesday of the month. Members-only shows, painting opportunities, workshops, and more foster an active community. Signature Membership is conferred on active members

accepted into 3 Aquarius shows within a 10-year period. Membership is \$30; see ccwsart.com for forms & more information.

Exhibition Awards: Cash and merchandise will be awarded to artists determined by the Juror.

Artists' Eligibility: Open to all artists residing in California. Artists juried into the exhibition are responsible for delivering and removing their works, and must exhibit the painting for the entire length of the show.

Failure to exhibit after acceptance will result in ineligibility to enter any CCWS show or exhibition for the next two years.

Exhibition Calendar 2026

Dec 1, 2025 Digital entries accepted –
Closing Jan 4, 2026 at midnight

Jan 20 Email notification to accepted artists

Jan 21 Accepted artists posted on CCWS website

Feb 18 Receiving hand-delivered paintings,
10 - 11am at Art Center Morro Bay,
835 Main St., Morro Bay, CA

Feb 19 Exhibition opens

Feb 22 Opening Reception 2:00 - 4:00pm,
Awards and Signature Membership

Feb 23 -25 Workshop with Michael Reardon

Mar 30 Exhibition closes

Mar 31 Pick-up all art work 10am - 12pm

Artwork Eligibility: Entries are limited to **two paintings** per artist. Painting must be watermedia paintings on natural or synthetic paper, Yupo, Aquabond and Claybord, and must be framed. No stretched canvas or canvas board. Collage may be used but aqueous medium must constitute 80% or more of the work. All collage materials must be original designs executed on watermedia paper by the artist. Other media, if used, must be in conjunction with the watermedia, which must be dominant. Digital media, photography, prints, reproductions, diptychs or triptychs are **not** permitted. Entries must be original, artist's own idea, composition, and design and not derived from published images; **no AI or computer-generated work**. Photo reference material must have been taken by you. Work must have been completed during the last three full years and not previously shown in a CCWS exhibit. **All work must be for sale.** A 30% commission will be retained by Art Center Morro Bay. Price your work accordingly. No price changes after entry.

Size limits:

Unmatted artwork minimum size – 8" x 10"

Matted and framed maximum size – 40" longest side

Digital submission of image(s):

- File format must be JPG, at least 300 dpi but not to exceed 5 MB.
- Image(s) must represent the painting(s) exactly.
- Image(s) must be cropped to show only the painting; no matting, background or frame allowed on image.
- Each photo or file shall be named with the artist's
- **Last Name, First Name and Title of the work only.**

Example: SmithJohn_MyCat.jpg (**NO SPACES OR PUNCTUATION**)

- Digital image(s) in your **EntryThingy** entry are due by midnight - January 4, 2026.
- If paying by check, Entry Fee must be received or postmarked by midnight January 4, 2026.

Online Entry Requirements:

Starting **Dec 1, 2025** on the CCWS website, go to **"EntryThingy"** to create an account and complete your entry for 1 or 2 paintings (Link will be live on ccwsart.com and entrythingy.com as of 12/01/2025). You will be asked to agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this Aquarius 2026 Prospectus. **Please read the entire Prospectus.** EntryThingy entry, image(s) and fees must be received or postmarked by January 4, 2026 at midnight.

You will need the following information to complete your entry on EntryThingy:

- Your name, address, email and phone number
- Title of your painting(s)
- A brief description of each painting
- Dimensions of painting(s): Width x Height
- Selling Price(s)
- Year Completed (2023, 2024, 2025)
- Material – watercolor, watermedia, or collage

Entry Fee and Instructions:

- Entry fee for current CCWS members: \$25 for one painting, \$35 for two paintings.
- Entry fee for non-members: \$45 for one painting, \$60 for two paintings.
- Entry fee for non-members + joining CCWS: \$55 for one painting, \$65 for two paintings which

includes membership in CCWS for 2026.

- You will be able to pay your entry fees online through EntryThingy using PayPal which also takes a Credit/Debit card with or without a PayPal account.
- Fees may be paid by check or money order payable to CCWS. No cash. The Entry Fee is non-refundable and should be mailed to:

Central Coast Watercolor Society

PO Box 922 • Nipomo, CA 93444-0922

Method of Selection: The juror will make selections from digital images. ***Only one piece per artist may be selected.*** Accepted artists will be notified of the juror's selections, and will be responsible for delivering the work to Art Center Morro Bay on February 18. **Final show selection will be from the actual delivered work; the juror has the right of refusal.**

Framing: Framing guidelines must be followed.

- Painting mats should be a minimum 2" wide and in white or neutral color. Colored liners are acceptable.
- Glazing: Acrylic preferred, glass okay; make sure the surface is clean, no fingerprints.
- Frame materials: Simple wood, metal or plastic, properly reinforced. Heavy or ornate carved frames are not appropriate.
- Frame size: Simple narrow gallery frames with a 14" minimum or 40" maximum on the longest side.
- Hardware: Accepted work must be securely **wired** and ready to hang using D-rings. **No saw-tooth hangers allowed.**

Liability and Conditions: Care will be taken in handling paintings, however CCWS and its representatives will not be responsible for damage or loss, whatever the cost. Artists should carry their own insurance. **No work may be withdrawn before the end of the exhibit.** (Out of area sales excepted.) Submission of entries to this competition shall constitute the artist's agreement to the terms and conditions of this prospectus.

For Aquarius 2026 Information and Questions:

Exhibition Chair: Chuck Crotser

Email: ccrotser@gmail.com

Publicity/Webmaster: Jeanie Smith

Email: jksmith614@gmail.com

EntryThingy Questions: <https://www.entrythingy.com/faq.html>