

28TH ANNUAL

THE INTERNATIONAL

a competition for portraiture and figurative art

Exhibit April 9-12, 2026 ~ Atlanta, GA



2025 Draper Grand Prize Winner & People's Choice Award

Frances Bell

Yellow Trainers, 35.5 x 37.5", Oil on Canvas



Over \$170,000 in Cash & Prizes
Winners will also receive a certificate authenticating their award.

Enter on or before February 9, 2026



You are invited to enter the 28th Annual International Portrait Competition, showcasing the finest in portraiture and figurative art today. The International Portrait Competition is open to all artists, members and non-members. A variety of mediums is welcomed and encouraged. The selected finalists are required to exhibit their selected original artwork and be present at the prestigious *The Art of the Portrait*® conference on April 9-12, 2026 in Atlanta, GA.

IMPORTANT DATES

File Upload Deadline:	February 9, 2026
Finalist Notification:	March 2, 2026
Exhibition Dates:	April 9-12, 2026
Gala Awards Banquet	April 11, 2026

ENTRY FEE

The \$55 Entry Fee covers up to 3 unique submissions. Credit cards are accepted online with your submission. The fee is non-refundable and must accompany your submission.

If you are selected as a finalist, you are *required to be in attendance with your artwork* to win a prize. Conference tuition is waived for finalists, but they must arrange and be responsible for their own travel, hotel and shipping of their original artwork.

AWARDS & PRIZES

- ◆ Over \$170,000 in Cash and Prizes
- ◆ The William Draper Grand Prize features a \$50,000 cash prize and a feature article in *International Artist* magazine
- ◆ Recognition in *International Artist* magazine, *The Art of the Portrait*® journal, Portrait Society's website and social media
- ◆ All Finalists receive complimentary tuition to the 2027 *The Art of the Portrait*® conference, as well as other cash and prizes

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- ◆ **Grand Prize:** An overall selected winner from the top twenty finalists' original artwork
- ◆ **First Place Drawing**
- ◆ **First Place Painting**
- ◆ **First Place Sculpture**
- ◆ **Six Placement Awards**
- ◆ **Exceptional Merit Awards**

JUDGING CRITERIA

Our goal is to create an exhibition, in conjunction with our annual conference, of the finest portrait and figurative work being created today worldwide. The final award winners are selected through a two step process. A three member jury appointed by the Chair will select the finalists from the submitted images. On-site prizes will be selected by a different panel after viewing the original artwork at the event.

Judging is based in part on the following:

- ◆ **Technical Skill:** Confident handling of medium, solid understanding of anatomy, mastery of value, contrast, harmony and atmosphere.
- ◆ **Concept & Design:** Effective arrangement of elements, balance and use of space.
- ◆ **Cohesion:** The technical, creative and expressive elements feel united.
- ◆ **Originality & Creativity:** The artwork offers a unique perspective and shows individuality and personal artistic interpretation or a fresh approach in technique, material or composition.

ENTRY RULES

- ◆ **Entries:** Participants are eligible to submit up to three artworks for consideration.
- ◆ **Design & Concept:** Entries must be the artist's own original design and concept and created independently **after February 2023**. Work created under instruction, painted over prints, AI generated or digitally created are ineligible.
- ◆ **Copyright:** Entrants are allowed to use photographic and digital images as reference (not AI) in the creative process, but it must be their own reference material or if the entrant has the permission of a source, the final artwork must vary enough from the source image to constitute a new original work of art. (If there is any question about the creative process, the jurors may ask to see source material.)
- ◆ **Handcrafted:** Work must be handcrafted by the artist, not copied from another source or through the use of digital or photo transfer to the substrate.
- ◆ **Sizes:** For 2D artwork, the longest side must be **no longer than 60"** (unframed). For 3D artwork, the size of the sculpture should **be under 34" and weigh no more than 50 pounds**.
- ◆ **Eligibility:** The competition is open to all artists, including faculty artists that are donating their time to teach at the annual conference. Portrait Society Executive Board Members, Gold Medal Recipients and previous Draper Grand Prize winners are ineligible.



2025 First Place Painting
Joseph Daily
Mayor Michael A. Nutter, 39x52", Oil

SHIPPING & SECURITY

Artists whose work is selected as a finalist are responsible for transporting their artwork by the specified date to and from the conference being held at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta - Buckhead in Atlanta, GA.

The artist is responsible for all shipping charges and insurance, both on site and during transit. Neither the Portrait Society of America nor the Grand Hyatt Atlanta will be responsible for any shipping, holding fees, loss or damage of artwork, regardless of the cause.

HOW TO SUBMIT ELECTRONICALLY

FORMAT YOUR ENTRY

Prepare up to three (3) unique artworks for entry:

- ◆ **Only digital entries will be accepted.**
- ◆ Images should ONLY be of the artwork. Do not include matting, frame, etc. in the image.
- ◆ Save each file as a **TIFF or JPG, no larger than 6 megabytes**.
- ◆ Each file must be labeled in the following format: artist's **last name, first initial, and letter of the entry being submitted, separated by a dash**.

For example: *smith-j-a.jpg*

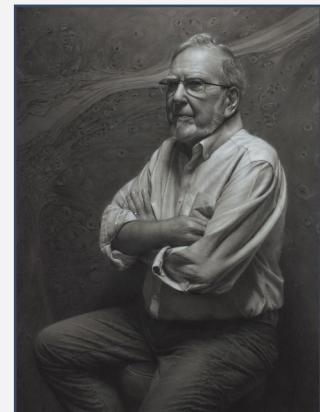
ACCESS THE ENTRY FORM ONLINE

www.portraitsociety.org

STEPS TO SUBMIT ONLINE

Step 1 — Upload Your Artwork

Make sure your entry files are formatted according to the instructions above and are named correctly. Then, for each artwork, enter the Title, Dimensions, and Medium. Example: *Katharina, 18x24", Oil on canvas*
Upload each image following the steps in the form.



2025 First Place Drawing

David Jamieson
Pathologist—Portrait of Dr. Maurice Jamieson, 26x20", Graphite, Carbon Black, Pastel, Ink Wash on Paper

Step 2 — Agree to Terms of Competition

Read and agree to the terms of the competition.

Step 3 — Submit Entry /Payment

Submit your entry and complete payment. A confirmation for submission and confirmation for payment will be emailed.



2025 First Place Sculpture

Kate Brockman
Newell Convers Wyeth
23x14x18", Bronze

Have Questions? Call 1-877-772-4321