



**2026 William T. Turman Plein Air  
Competition: June 25 – 28, 2026  
Swope Exhibition: July 6 – September 6  
Arts Illiana Exhibition: June 30 – August 8**

**ABOUT THE WILLIAM T. TURMAN SWOPE PLEIN AIR COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION**  
The 2026 Swope Art Museum William T. Turman Plein Air competition is open to all painters. All works must be painted during the event period, June 25 - 28, and must be created in Terre Haute and Vigo County, Indiana. The Swope is partnering with Arts Illiana again this year! Please read this prospectus carefully!

This outdoor painting event is a tribute to William Turman, a preeminent plein air painter from Graysville, Indiana. Turman was the second director of the Swope Art Museum, and Chairman of the Indiana State University Art Department for 40 years. Turman was part of the rich history of Indiana landscape painters including T.C. Steele, William Merritt Chase, and William Forsyth.

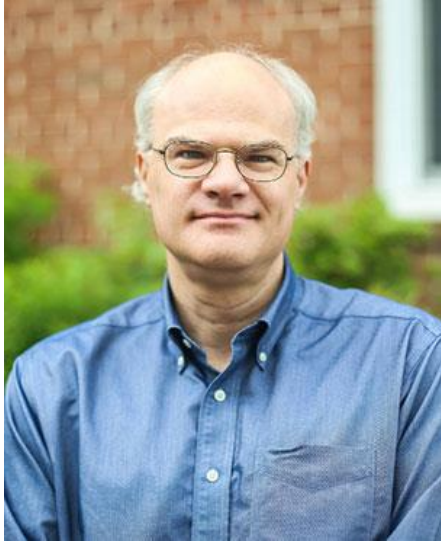
#### **HOW TO ENTER**

Qualified entries are eligible for up to \$5000 in purchase and cash prizes. Swope members at the \$125 sustaining level or above are entitled to free entry in the competition. Non-members pay \$40. Walk-in registration and substrate stamping is at the Swope Art Museum, 25 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, June 23 - 26, during Museum open hours, Tuesday - Friday Noon – 4 PM. Follow the link to become a member and pre-register via this link June 10 - 17: <https://www.swope.org/plein-air>

All painting supports must be stamped to be eligible for awards. Bring blank supports to the Swope Art Museum, 25 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, June 23 - 26, during Museum open hours, Tuesday - Friday Noon – 4 PM.

Submit paintings by Noon June 28 at the Arts Illiana Gallery, 23 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Terre Haute, Indiana. Only registered stamped paintings will be accepted. All works must be display-ready with a wire on the back. Frames are optional, but keep in mind that artworks will be handled for installation purposes. The Swope Art Museum and Arts Illiana are not liable for any damage to artwork. Only traditional painting mediums are accepted: oil, acrylic, pastel, and watercolor.





**JUROR**

Our juror for the Plein Air Competition and Swope exhibition is Efram Burk, Professor of Art History, Curry College, Milton, Massachusetts.

Both of Efram Burk’s parents were artists and educators, and Efram continues the tradition. For the past twenty-eight years, he has taught Art History full-time, first at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort and since 2006, at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts. Efram focuses his activities on scholarship and making art. In terms of research, he has focused on early twentieth-century American modernism—his articles include: "Printmaking as Autobiography: The Graphic Art of Marguerite Zorach," *Woman's Art Journal*, May 2004; "Assembling the 'Primitive': Max Weber's Artist Book *Primitives* (1926)," *SECAC Review*, Fall 2003; "The Prints of William Zorach," *Print Quarterly*,

December 2002; "'Sketch[ing] and Paint[ing] in Ecstasy'-William and Marguerite Zorach in Yosemite Valley, Summer 1920," *SECAC Review*, Fall 2014. His book, *Clever Fresno Girl: The Travel Writings of Marguerite Thompson Zorach (1908-1915)*, was published by the University of Delaware Press (2009). In 2012, he was accepted as a member of the Ogunquit Art Association, the oldest artists' organization in the state of Maine, where he shows his photos, drawings, and paintings. Efram enjoys marveling at nature's beauty and majesty through long walks and hikes. He is proud that his father's work is showing at the Swope this year.

***Marsh, Stone, Sky: George Burk Painting, Sculpture and Drawing*** will be on display June 5 – September 6, 2026, at the Swope Art Museum: [www.swope.org](http://www.swope.org)

**AWARDS**

Enter to be eligible for \$5,000 in purchase awards and cash prizes!

- Best of Show ..... \$1,500
- Swope Alliance Award ..... \$1,000
- IPAPA Award of Excellence ..... \$200

**CALENDAR**

**Online registration ..... June 10 - 17**

**Walk-in registration & stamping at the Swope, 25 South 7<sup>th</sup> St .... June 23 – 26, Noon – 4:00 PM**

**Deliver completed entries ..... Sunday, June 28, 9 AM- Noon**  
(Deliver artworks to the Arts Illiana Gallery at 23 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street)

**Jury process ..... June 28, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**End of competition awards and reception at Arts Illiana..... June 28, 4:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Swope Art Museum *William T. Turman Swope Plein Air Exhibition* of selected works: July 6 – September 6.**

**Arts Illiana *Salon Exhibition*: June 30<sup>t</sup> – August 8**

**SWOPE END OF EXHIBITION PAINTING PICK-UP: August 16th, 10 AM – 4 PM. Any additional times needed the following week by appointment only. Contact [info@swope.org](mailto:info@swope.org) to arrange pick up.**  
**ARTS ILLIANA END OF EXHIBITION PICK-UP: Contact [gallery@artsilliana.com](mailto:gallery@artsilliana.com) for details.**

## **RULES**

- This call is for all painters working in 2D paint media, limited to oil media (traditional and water-mixable), wet media (acrylic, watercolor, and gouache), and dry media (pastel). No photography.
- A \$40 non-refundable entry fee is due upon registration. Registration for the competition is included in the \$125 Sustaining level Swope membership or above. Go to [www.swope.org/pleinair](http://www.swope.org/pleinair) to access the link to membership and to review the many benefits, including five free entries in the Wabash Valley Exhibition!
- Painting supports must be blank or a toned ground to be eligible for registration, exhibition, and awards. Supports with drawing or other marks will not be stamped.
- Paintings must be completed in Terre Haute or Vigo County and must be painted at least 80% out-of-doors.
- Paintings may be offered for sale to the public at the conclusion of the jury process. Sold artwork will remain on display until the end of the exhibition. Juried award paintings will be displayed at the Swope Art Museum from July 6 – September 6, 2026. All other entries will be on display at the Arts Illiana Gallery at 23 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Terre Haute, Indiana until August 8.
- Arts Illiana and the Swope Art Museum share 30% commission on sales.

***All supports must be stamped and registered to be eligible for exhibition and awards!***

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily elected to participate in the William T. Turman Swope Plein Air competition taking place in Terre Haute and Vigo County, Indiana, June 25 – 28, 2026. I, on behalf of myself and my personal representative, heirs, executives, agents, and assigns, hereby release, waive, discharge and covenant to sue the city of Terre Haute, Vigo County, the Swope Art Museum, and Arts Illiana, their governing boards, directors, offices, employees, agents, volunteers (hereinafter referred to as "Releases"), for any and all liability. I further agree that Releases are not in any way responsible for any injury or damages of any kind that I may sustain as a result of participating in this event. I further acknowledge and understand that Releases may not have medical personnel at the event. In case of a medical emergency, I authorize medical care as deemed necessary. I acknowledge and freely accept the risks inherent with this activity and attest that I am in adequate physical condition to participate. I have read this agreement and fully understand its terms. By my electronic signature I represent that I am at least 18 years of age or, if not, that I have secured below the signature of my parent or legal guardian.

Date \_\_\_\_\_