

Applying for Signature Status – 2011

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What are the levels of membership?

The FCA levels of membership are as follows:

Supporting Member, Active Status Member, Associate Member (known as an AFCA), and Senior Member (known as a SFCA).

The various membership types were developed with the specific purpose of gradually raising the artists' standards by stimulating participants to greater standards of achievement.

For more information about levels of membership, please see:

http://artists.ca/membership_chapters

Why would you be interested in obtaining Signature Status?

The International Portrait Competition states: "The Initials of a Signature, Fellow or Juried member of a well-respected institution conveys to galleries, clients, publications and others your status as a respected peer within the arts community".

What are the technical requirements?

AFCA Technical Requirements:

Download the Signature Application from the FCA website:

http://artists.ca/files/930/Signature_Application_2011.pdf

or follow the link from the FCA website at:

www.artists.ca/ - click on the blue box (right hand side), titled: "Signature Application"

For your application, you need to include:

- Application checklist
- Ten good slides / digital images and 3 original works
- An image List (The listing should be in the order you wish your paintings to be viewed by the Board of Governors).

- A one page biography
 - A registration fee of \$75.00
 - A completed application form
 - A completed permission/ copyright form
 - A self-addressed envelope, with sufficient postage, large enough for the return of your slides or CD.
 - A completed copy of the Juried Show Entry Form (FCA Painting Labels) for all 3 paintings (this is not mentioned in the application paperwork)
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- Application and digital images must be received by Friday, February 18th, 2011
 - Original art work to be at the FCA Gallery between: Feb 22nd and March 3rd, 2011.
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- AFCA members need a listing of eight different works accepted in eight different qualifying juried shows in the past four years. Two must be from the Federation Gallery in Vancouver or Open National shows. Effective as of 2007, only six of the eight required shows may be Chapter shows.

SFCA Technical Requirements:

Application date and requirements are the same as for an AFCA Application.

The difference though, is as follows:

To apply for SFCA, you must already have AFCA status **OR** be an Active member with 8 different works accepted into 8 different qualifying juried shows in the past 4 years.

You do not have to list the 8 juried shows for SFCA application if you are already an AFCA.

If you are an Active member trying for SFCA, you have to list your 8 qualifying shows.

If you are an Active member trying for SFCA and do not achieve it, you do not automatically become an AFCA. You have to reapply the following year for either status.

What is a qualifying show?

Candidates should contact FCA Vancouver for clarification on shows that have been approved for Signature status application.

What is the Board looking for in terms of consistency, style, etc.?

- The Board of Governors is looking for a consistent body of work – one motif, one style.
- Try to limit your media and/or subject matter – preferably 1, but maximum 2 of either.
- Only show your VERY BEST work
- Include paintings that have the “Wow” factor
- Include paintings that have won awards
- For your 3 original paintings, this is the only time where you can have a NFS price tag on them, so send your best work.
- Be sure that everything is presented professionally – your biography looks smart with up-to-date information and no typographical errors. Your photographs should look professional – no grass, frames, or fingers in the photograph, no glare, or key-stoning. They should be well photographed and colour corrected. Entries of poor quality will be returned without consideration by the jury
- Do not include anything extra than what you see in the Application checklist – no extra images, no extra originals.

Working toward Signature Status - Quotes from Signature Members:

- Spend time on the FCA website, looking at SFCA and AFCA members work. Look specifically for what is different about their work compared to the general membership. What stands out about their work, and how can you develop your own unique voice?
- You are ready for AFCA status when you have won 3 or 4 major awards. Go for your AFCA when you are almost at SFCA level.
- High impact paintings are looked for with good composition, and a full range of values. The subject matter should be unique – or treated in a unique way – they are looking for something different.
- Be sure to enter the Chapter shows, as you are competing with far fewer members than you would be at the FCA Gallery.

And as a final comment... If you are declined the FCA will advise you of how many votes you received so you know whether you were close in your bid for Senior Status. A critique takes place shortly after the Board of Governors’ meeting, and you are invited to participate to learn which skills you need to acquire to take your work to the next level.

Wishing you the Best of Luck!