

Gallery Wrap Criteria

There is sometimes confusion between "gallery wrap" and a "stretched canvas". Gallery wrap is a method of displaying art wrapped over thick wooden bars. "Gallery wrap" refers to an image that appears on the sides of the frame as well as the front. There are no visible fasteners (e.g., staples or tacks). It is a finished product that is intended to be hung unframed. In contrast, stretched canvas is not a finished product. Gallery Wrap canvas is mounted on 1½" (38 mm) heavy-duty stretcher frames, double the standard thickness for heavy-duty performance, stapled on the back to allow painting on all sides. The sides of the canvas are prepared and primed in the same manner as the face or front. They are then be painted to continue the image appearing on the face. This method of stretching and preparing a canvas allows for a frameless presentation of the finished painting.

DWS uses the above information as its definition of Gallery Wrap canvas. The side profile of the Gallery wrap canvas must be at a minimum 1 and ½ inches in height. Any canvas with visible side staples, or a profile height of less than 1 ½ inches or one having an incomplete wrap around painted image will not be eligible for acceptance in a DWS exhibition.