

# The Living Canvas IV: An Exhibition of Figurative Art

**Location:** The Maple Leaf (formerly Panza), 115 Sedgwick St, Pittsburgh, PA 15209

**Exhibition Period:** August 1 - 23, 2026

**Juror:** Yelena Lamm, Artist, Juror's Choice Award Winner *Living Canvas I, II, and III*

## **Juror Statement:**

It is an honor to serve as juror for the fourth annual Living Canvas. I have had the privilege of participating in this exhibition since its inception, and returning now in the role of juror feels both meaningful and humbling.

The human figure has been at the heart of artistic practice throughout history. From the earliest sculptures and cave paintings to contemporary works that challenge and redefine our understanding of identity, the figure remains one of the most profound and enduring subjects in art. Studying and representing the human form is not simply an exercise in anatomy or technique — it is a way of exploring beauty, vulnerability, strength, emotion, and our shared humanity.

For centuries, mastery of the figure has been regarded as one of the highest achievements in art. Yet technical skill alone is never enough. The most memorable works are those that transcend representation and reveal something essential about the human experience. The figure becomes a language through which artists communicate ideas, emotions, and truths that words often cannot express. As I jury this exhibition, I will be looking for works that demonstrate a strong command of craft, but equally for works that possess a distinct voice and emotional resonance. I am drawn to pieces that show sincerity of vision, confidence in execution, and the power to move, surprise, or linger in the viewer's mind.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Mia St. Clair, whose vision and dedication created Living Canvas and helped it grow into a prominent and eagerly anticipated event in Pittsburgh's art community. Her commitment to figurative art has fostered an inspiring space for artists to share their work and for audiences to engage with one of art's most enduring traditions. I look forward to discovering the many ways artists continue to celebrate and reinvent the human figure in this year's exhibition.

## **Juror Experience:**

Yelena Lamm was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, where she received her formal art training at the N. K. Roerich Fine Arts School. Since 1995, she has lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, working primarily in oil and dedicated to the classical tradition of representational art. Yelena is a Signature Member of Oil Painters of America (OPA), American Women Artists (AWA), American Impressionist Society (AIS), National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society (NOAPS), and Society of Animal Artists (SAA). Her work has received numerous awards in national and international juried exhibitions, including honors from the Art Renewal Center and the Portrait Society of America. In addition to exhibiting extensively, she teaches art workshops throughout the United States and Canada, as well as online. She has served as a juror for online exhibitions organized by OPA and NOAPS. Yelena has been involved with Living Canvas since its inaugural year and was honored to receive the exhibition's Juror's Award three years in a row. She is delighted to serve as juror for the fourth annual Living Canvas and to celebrate the enduring tradition and continuing evolution of figurative art.

## **Exhibition Opening and Awards Ceremony:**

The exhibition will open on Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. The awards ceremony will be held on the opening night, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**Exhibition Closing:** Sunday, August 23, 2026, a closing reception will be held from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. with the exhibition award winners' artist talk beginning at 5:00 p.m. All artwork must also be removed from the gallery after the Artist Talk.

## **ENTRY PROCESS**

**Eligibility:** This is a Juried exhibition of Figurative artwork. This figurative art competition welcomes a diversity of artistic styles and mediums, apart from photography. Join us in celebrating the power and beauty of figurative art through the fourth annual Living Canvas Juried Exhibition.

Artists are permitted to enter up to three (3) pieces of artwork completed in recent years.

**Entry Fee:** A non-refundable entry fee of \$21.00 is required for juror consideration and must be paid during online registration. Payment can be made by Venmo (<https://www.venmo.com/u/stclairmermaid>) or PayPal (<https://paypal.me/MiaStClair13>). Include your name and 'Living Canvas Registration' with your payment.

**Registration:** Artwork must be registered online at [livingcanvaspgh.com](http://livingcanvaspgh.com). Registration will be available from June 22 at 10:00 a.m. through July 20 at 5:00 p.m. No work will be accepted once registration is closed. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Artists will receive a confirmation email upon successful online registration. If a confirmation email is not received within a few hours of your attempt to register, then the registration was unsuccessful. The artist should retry the online process or contact [betweenthelakes19@gmail.com](mailto:betweenthelakes19@gmail.com) for assistance.

Registered artwork must meet eligibility requirements and conform to the dimensions/weight requirements specified in the sections **Artwork Requirements** and **Hanging Requirements**.

The following information is required for all registered work:

Artist's Name  
Title  
Medium  
Dimensions (H x W x D)  
Price (\$)

**All work must be for sale.** Work submitted without pricing will NOT be accepted for consideration. The artist receives 90% of all sold artwork. The exhibition organizer will receive a total of 10% of the sales price with the monies directly supporting show expenses. The sales structure should be considered when pricing the artwork. This commission shall be in place for the duration of the exhibition and for an additional 30 days following the closing. Any sale of the artist's exhibited work made by the artist within 30 days following the exhibition's closing will be subject to this commission agreement.

**NOTE:** The information listed for each artwork at the time of registration is FINAL. No changes will be accepted after registration.

**Drop Off of Work:** All registered work must be hand-delivered to The Maple Leaf (115 Sedgwick St, Pittsburgh, PA 15209) for the jury process. Shipped pieces will not be accepted. **Only pieces agreeing with the information listed on the online registration will be accepted at drop-off. NO EXCEPTIONS.** All work must be dropped off at The Maple Leaf on

- Saturday, July 25, 2026, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Artwork dimensions and hanging suitability will be checked at this time. Determination of the acceptability of art will be made by the organizer at the time of drop off. Any unacceptable piece(s) will be returned to the artist. **NO ARTWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 6:00 P.M. ON July 25, 2026.**

**Jury of work:** The juror will determine if the work is SELECTED or NOT SELECTED for exhibition. Artists will be notified of the juror's decision on July 27 no later than 5:00 p.m. All artists will be notified by the email provided during registration. No information will be provided as to why a piece was selected or not selected. Artwork SELECTED by the juror will be entered into the roster for *The Living Canvas IV: An Exhibition of Figurative Art* at The Maple Leaf.

**Awards:** Two awards will be given by the juror: Juror's Award \$200 and Honorable Mention \$100. The People's Choice award is determined by public vote. From the exhibition's opening until August 1 at 5:00 pm,

each visitor is invited to cast a single vote for their favorite piece. The artwork receiving the highest number of votes will be honored with the People's Choice award. Please note that recipients of the Juror's Choice or Honorable Mention awards are not eligible for this recognition. Award winners will be asked to give an artist talk during the closing reception on August 23.

**Pickup of Not Selected Work:** Pickup of work NOT SELECTED is available during gallery hours throughout the duration of the exhibition. All artwork must be removed from the gallery after the Artist Talk on August 23, no later than 6:00 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Artwork Requirements:** All work entered must be figurative art. All styles and kinds of figures are welcome.

- Both 2D and 3D, and freestanding sculpture work will be permitted
- All mediums will be considered, apart from photography
- Installations will NOT be accepted
- Diptych and Triptych Pieces will NOT be accepted
- The dimensions of any 2D piece shall not be more than 72 inches in the longest dimension including frame.
- The height of any free-standing 3D piece shall not exceed 48 inches and the width no more than 48 inches in the longest dimension. Free-standing sculptures shall not exceed 60 lbs.

Dimensions of all work will be verified at drop-off. Pieces exceeding any dimensional requirements will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Hanging Requirements:** All artwork must be presentation-ready and framed. Framed work may include work on paper or canvas. Framed work on paper should have a protective glazing. Framed work must be provided with hanging wire or hanging rings. Saw-toothed hangers are not permitted. The hanging system must be rigid and suitably sized to carry the weight of the framed piece.

Wall-hung sculptures must have positive and adequately sized hanging devices affixed to the piece to support its weight.

Free-standing sculptures must be affixed to a base to construct in a manner that they are stable on the floor. If a pedestal is required, the artist must notify Mia in advance of drop-off.

**Additional Requirements:** Each entry MUST have a tag attached to the back of the artwork that includes the information requested at online registration. Only pieces agreeing with the information listed on the online registration roster will be accepted at drop-off. NO EXCEPTIONS.

A tag template is available online at [livingcanvaspgh.com](http://livingcanvaspgh.com)

**Artists Responsibility and Acknowledgment:** It is the responsibility of the artist to carefully read and understand the conditions and scheduled deadlines outlined in this prospectus. Once registered, the artist attests that they can and will meet all requirements for the artwork submitted. There will be **no refund of entry fees** should artwork not be selected or fails to meet the requirements of this prospectus or failure to meet scheduled deadlines for this event.

**Disclaimers & Liability:** The exhibition organizer and The Maple Leaf reserve the right to reproduce and distribute images of artwork in print and electronic media for a catalogue, publicity, documentation, and educational purposes. All reasonable care will be taken with artwork. However, the exhibition organizer and The Maple Leaf will not be responsible for loss or damage of any work. The exhibition organizer and The Maple Leaf reserve the right to reject poorly presented work or work deemed unsuitable for public viewing. Artists will be required to sign a release waiver for each piece submitted at the time of drop off.

**Questions:** Please contact the exhibition organizer at [betweenthelakes19@gmail.com](mailto:betweenthelakes19@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Final Pickup of Work:** Following the close of the exhibition artists must remove all work from the premises of the gallery. Artists may take home their artwork following the artist talk, no later than 6:00 p.m.

**READ CAREFULLY!** All work must be picked up by the artists or a designated representative. The organizers will not be responsible to hold, store or arrange special pick up for this artwork. It is the artists responsibility to assure their work is removed from the gallery by 6:00 p.m. on August 23, 2026.

**Any work remaining after the deadline will be forfeited by the artist and disposed of.**

Please be advised that it is not the organizer's responsibility to contact artists regarding these deadlines once work is registered. It is the artist's responsibility to MEET THESE FINAL PICKUP REQUIREMENTS. It is the artist's responsibility to assign a designee to drop off/pick up their work if they cannot do so in person and notify Mia of any such designee.

**Please ensure your schedule permits adherence to all event deadlines before registering. Failure to meet pickup deadlines will result in the forfeiture of artwork.**

#### **Important Dates:**

- **Registration Opens:** June 22, 10:00 a.m. (online at [livingcanvaspgh.com](http://livingcanvaspgh.com))
- **Registration Closes:** July 20, 5:00 p.m.
- **Artwork Drop-off:** July 25, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **Notification:** July 27, 5:00 p.m.
- **Exhibition Opening & Award Ceremony:** August 1, 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Awards at 6:00 p.m.)
- **Closing Reception & Artist Talk:** August 23, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m (Artist Talk at 5:00 p.m.)

**Living Canvas IV is open August 1 -23 during gallery hours as shown below:**

**Fridays & Saturdays:** 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
**Sundays:** 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Volunteer:** We are asking for volunteers to sit in the gallery during the following dates and times. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mia with your preferred date. Closing/opening instructions will be provided to all volunteers in advance.

|                 |                   |                  |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday, Aug 2   | 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Saturday, Aug 15 | 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm |
| Friday, Aug 7   | 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Sunday, Aug 16   | 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm |
| Saturday, Aug 8 | 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Friday, Aug 21   | 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm |
| Sunday, Aug 9   | 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Saturday, Aug 22 | 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm |
| Friday, Aug 14  | 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm |                  |                   |

#### **Artwork Pickup:**

**Unselected works:** Pickup during regular gallery hours.

**Selected works:** Pickup on August 23, immediately following the Artist Talk (no later than 6:00 p.m.).

#### **Events**

In addition to the opening and closing reception, the following events will be held at the gallery during The Living Canvas show. All events can be found online at [livingcanvaspgh.com](http://livingcanvaspgh.com) Please feel free to attend as many as you like. RSVP is suggested to help with planning.

#### **Weekly Life Drawing Open Session, 18+**

Every Saturday, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM, First and Third Monday, 6:30 - 9:30 PM. Open, self-guided session (no formal instruction), featuring a live nude model. Artists of all skill levels (18+) are welcome to attend. Artists are responsible for bringing their own materials and supplies. Cost: \$15. Tips for the model are greatly appreciated. Poses vary in length from 5 to 30 minutes. Questions? Please contact Mia or Joe W for more information.

#### **Artist Demonstration by Yelena Lamm**

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 2:00 - 3:30 PM, Free to Attend

**Canvas to Contract: A Legal Guide for Portrait Artists Seminar presented by Sasha Phillips**

Saturday, August 15, 2026, 2:00 - 3:30 PM, Free to Attend

**Millvale Mixer**

**The Living Canvas welcomes local Millvale businesses and community members**

Friday, August 14, 2026, Free to Attend, Reception at 5:00 pm