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Honorary Treasurer:  
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## THE PASTEL SOCIETY RULES 2023

23 February 2023

### THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS: -

#### 1. NAME AND OBJECTIVES

The Society shall be called 'THE PASTEL SOCIETY' and is hereinafter called 'the Society'. It shall have for its objective, the promotion of Contemporary Fine Art in painting and drawing with pastel and dry media both in the UK and worldwide.

1.1 Acceptable media will include all types of pastel, chalk or crayon whether in stick or pan form, made from pure pigment mixed with a binder including soft pastels, hard pastels, oil pastels, ink pastels, water-based pastels, Conté crayons or sticks and sanguine and other dry mediums that are similar in their application including charcoal and pencil.

1.2 Pastel and other mediums listed above shall be regarded as having no boundaries, whether on their own or in combination with other media. However, pastel or the other dry media mentioned should be the primary medium in the finished mixed media work.

1.3 Membership of The Society will be granted through a strict assessment of technical skill, originality, innovation, enthusiasm and a willingness to promote the objectives and activities of The Society.

1.4 The Society aims at all times to be in compliance with the spirit and practice of the Equality Act 2010 and to actively encourage inclusivity and recognition of the Protected Characteristics as covered in The Act. See the fuller and separately published Pastel Society Notes on the Equality Act to be published in June 2023.

1.5 Members of the Pastel Society are expected, in return for their membership and the use of PS after their names, to support the Society as fully as they can. This includes continual submissions to the Annual Exhibition; always designating themselves as PS in their signatures related to art; promoting the use of dry media to as many artists as possible and encouraging suitably talented artists to join the Society.

## 2. FEDERATION OF BRITISH ARTISTS

The Society is a Member of the Federation of British Artists (a company limited by guarantee without a share capital) hereinafter referred to as 'The FBA'.

The conditions of Membership of the Federation are: -

2.1 The FBA will in no way interfere with or seek to influence the artistic aim or policies of the Society.

2.2 The Society shall conduct its own internal administration in accordance with these rules which shall be binding upon all Members.

2.3 The Society's appointed representative on the FBA Council shall discuss freely with the FBA any matter connected with the Society or its finances.

2.4 Membership subscriptions, commissions, submission fees and any other charges shall be agreed between the Council of the Society and the FBA.

2.5 Members of the Society shall pay their subscriptions and any other charges annually to the FBA.

2.6 The FBA undertakes to provide an exhibition gallery annually including representation on the Mall Galleries website and associated media and publicity.

## 3. MEMBERS

3.1 The Society shall consist of Members, Senior Members and Honorary Members. The Members shall be artists using pastels or other dry media and shall be elected at a General Meeting in accordance with Rule 9.

3.2 Senior Members are entitled to exhibit one work at the Annual Exhibition of the Society. Senior Members may also exhibit one additional work by payment of the Exhibition submission fee.

3.3 Members shall be entitled to use the suffix 'PS.' after their names. The President 'PPS.', the Vice President 'VPPS.' and Past Presidents 'PPPS.' and Honorary Members 'Hon. PS.'

3.4 Honorary Members shall be appointed by Members in a General Meeting following recommendations by the Council by a majority of Members. Honorary Members shall not be entitled to vote.

## 4. OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

4.1 The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer, and Honorary Secretary.

4.2 There shall be a Council and a Selection Committee, and a Hanging Committee.

4.3 The President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Publicity Secretary and Honorary Exhibition Secretary shall be ex-officio Members of all Committees. If the Honorary Treasurer is a non-member, then they can choose not to serve on a particular committee if it is not appropriate (e.g., the selection committee).

4.4 The Council shall have the power to appoint any committee for any purpose. Any Committee shall be secondary to and shall report to the Council.

4.5 The Society will provide reasonable travel expenses to their Council Members for attending Council, hanging and selection meetings.

## 5. NUMBERS AND POWERS OF COUNCIL

5.1 The Council shall consist of the Officers and a minimum of four other members, and shall have the entire direction and management of all the business of the Society, subject to the control of the General Meeting.

5.2 The Council shall have the power to institute any regulations it may consider necessary for the administration of the exhibition, or any other purpose not related to the Rules of the Society.

## 6. SELECTION COMMITTEE

6.1 The Selection Committee shall consist of the Officers and the Council.

6.2 The function of the Selection Committee shall be to judge all the work submitted by Non-Members and to make a selection for inclusion in the exhibition and, when necessary, to adjudicate as to the suitability of any work, whether by Members or Non-Members, for inclusion in the exhibition.

6.3 The Selection Committee shall have permission to invite members of the Society to join the Selection Committee as they see fit.

6.4 Remote Digital Selection is allowable initially.

6.5 Furthermore all remaining works after the original digital selection are to be finally assessed digitally by a specially convened majority number of the selection committee meeting physically to view the submissions on a large screen at the Mall Galleries.

6.6 Works may still be rejected upon arrival at the Mall Galleries if they are unsuitably framed or do not conform to the rules of submission (e.g. surfaces unprotected by glass).

## 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

7.1 The election of Officers shall take place at the Annual General Meeting in each year.

7.2 All Officers other than the President shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election.

7.3 The President shall serve for a period of five consecutive years after which the President shall retire and nominations for the office be invited from the Membership. All artist Members including the retiring President shall be eligible for nomination.

7.3 The election of the President shall be by postal ballot and/or email and the process will be run by an independent adjudicator of the FBA based in the Mall Galleries.

7.4 The Council Members shall be chosen by ballot by the members in a similar manner to the President above only in the case of there being more than one applicant for a post and serve for three years. Otherwise, existing Council Members can be re-elected for a further three-year period.

## 8. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

8.1 Applicants are advised to have submitted between 4 to 6 number pieces of work and shown a minimum of two works for two consecutive years at the Pastel Society Annual Exhibition so that Members are aware of the quality of their work.

8.2 If after the first submission an artist is considered of sufficient initial merit in the opinion of the Council, the Membership Secretary will write to said artist to gauge how serious they are about becoming a member by remaining in contact, further details etc. They will be seen to be an 'encouraged artist'. The wording of a standard letter and approach to be agreed by Council. No tutoring to be involved.

8.3 After the two years, they will then be in a position to apply for Membership and should contact or will be contacted by the Membership Secretary and asked whether they wish to be considered as a candidate the following year. The said artist may delay consideration without needing to go through 8.1 again so long as they apply within the following 12 months.

8.4 They are then advised to submit a further 4 to 6 number works and have at least 2 number works accepted at the next Annual Exhibition before being formally invited to be a candidate that year.

8.5 Once notification is given to the artist that they have met all the criteria and are being considered as a candidate for membership of The Pastel Society, the candidate will be asked to provide the following for review by the membership during the exhibition and their name will be listed in the exhibition catalogue as being a candidate:

- all materials that they feel support their application and to this end applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a portfolio of supporting works and sketch books. These will be displayed at the Gallery for viewing by the members. Website details and Instagram details can also be given for consideration for judging at the AGM held immediately after the exhibition finishes. In all cases

the applicants will be required to show a body of work and demonstrate their skills as an artist in pastel and dry media.

- a digital CV and statement as to why they wish to join the Society that will be circulated to all members.
- a one-off non-refundable fee of £25 to The Pastel Society to cover costs associated with the initial application for membership

8.6 Three attempts may be made to obtain membership unless the Council decides that the applicant has proved sufficiently after their third submission that they could get enough votes to be elected with a further submission.

8.7 The Council will inform members before the final submission date of the exhibition the names of the artists who are applying for membership at the exhibition. The members will be requested to make themselves familiar with the artists' previous submissions and work via the Pastel Society website, the applicants' own website and social media account information that will be provided to members.

8.7.1 Members have a duty to vote on the applications received. This can be done in the manner described in 8.8 below.

8.7.2 The Council reserves the right to suggest to the membership any artist that they feel would be a potentially valuable and suitable member of the Society and who has shown commitment despite not strictly having satisfied all the conditions laid out above (e.g. they may only have got one work in during one of the previous years). In this case the Council will make clear to the members the reasons for putting forward this artist and similarly publish their work on the website for members' consideration

8.8 Election is by 60% sealed majority vote of all members present at the AGM plus those who visited the exhibition, saw the artists' work on display, deposited a voting slip with the Mall Galleries in the sealed box available or sent in to the adjudicator an online vote in the form provided by the Council. The AGM takes place at the close of the annual exhibition and the applicants will be informed in writing of the results of this vote after that.

8.9 A one-off fee of £25 is payable on initial application.

8.10 Members are entitled to show six works at the annual exhibition subject to the veto of the Selection or Hanging Committee if the work is found to be inappropriate or lacking in the standard required by the exhibition.

8.11 Four of the works submitted by members can be of a larger framed format up to that stipulated in The Mall Gallery conditions. The other two works must be no larger than 50 x 50 cm framed.

8.12 Members must pay an annual subscription.

8.13 It is expected that members will *play* a positive part in the maintenance and development of the society.

8.14 New members will be co-opted on to the Council for three meetings in their first year of membership to learn how the Society operates.

8.15 Members of the Pastel Society are expected to exhibit with the society on a regular basis.

## 9. ELECTIONS

9.1 Before the Annual General Meeting, the Members shall be given the list of Applicants.

9.2 The Elections shall proceed as follows: -

9.2.2 Each Member shall record their vote on the list of Applicants and shall not vote for more Applicants than the number of declared vacancies.

9.2.3 Votes shall be counted and the names of any Applicants receiving 60% of the votes or more, shall be considered elected.

9.2.4 Members attending the Annual General Meeting plus those who visited the exhibition at any time, saw the artists' work on display, and deposited a voting slip with the Mall Galleries in the sealed box available or sent in an online voting slip to the adjudicator may record their vote against the Applicants that are listed.

9.2.5. Following the election to Membership of an Applicant, they shall be notified and sent a copy of the Rules and a request for payment of the first year's subscription.

9.2.6. Membership shall not be considered operative until this is paid and by making this payment the new Members shall be understood to have accepted their privileges and obligations to the Society and the Federation.

## 10. SCRUTINEERS

10.1 At all Elections, two Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Council. They shall count and record the totals of votes and report to the Chairman of the Meeting and shall not disclose any information about the voting to any other person.

## 11. VACANCY ON COUNCIL

11.1 Any vacancy occurring on the Council, or Committee, or amongst the Officers of the Society, may be filled by the Council pro-tem until the next Annual General Meeting when the co-opted members shall be subject to the normal election procedure.

## 12. CALLING OF MEETINGS

12.1 The Council shall have the power to summon an Extraordinary General

Meeting of the Society as often as they may think necessary and shall call a General Meeting upon receiving a written requisition signed by not less than eight Members of the Society. These eight members can be on the Council.

12.2 Such Meeting to be held within twenty-one days of the receipt of the requisition. Any requisition must set forth the object for which the Meeting is summoned and Members shall be informed of the object in the notice calling the Meeting.

### 13. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

13.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held during or close to the time of the Annual Exhibition. Notice of the Meeting together with the business to be conducted at the Meeting shall be sent to every Member not less than fourteen days before the date of the Meeting.

### 14. CHAIRING OF MEETINGS

14.1 The President or in their absence the Vice-President, shall take the Chair at all Meetings of the Society or of the Council and failing both of them, the Members shall nominate some other Member of the Council to Chair the Meeting.

14.2 The Meeting Chair shall have a right of giving a second and casting vote and on all questions of order or procedure their decision shall be final.

### 15. QUORUM

15.1 At a General Meeting fourteen Members and at a Meeting of the Council five Members shall form a Quorum. Members attending the General Meeting by Zoom can be counted in the Quorum calculation as long as they do not form more than half of all the attendees.

15.2 Council meetings can be primarily undertaken on Zoom except for the Annual General Meeting and the final digital selection of works for the exhibition which must be quorate with at least half the Council attending physically.

### 16. ALTERATION OF RULES

16.1 Any Rules of the Society may be altered, rescinded or added to only at General Meetings (including Extraordinary General meetings as defined above) of the Society by a majority of votes of the Members present and entitled to vote; fourteen days' notice in writing of the proposed change shall be given to all Members of the Society.

16.2 This rule does not apply to Council regulations.

### 17. SUBSCRIPTION

17.1 The amount of the annual subscription shall be fixed by the Council in consultation with the FBA and shall be reviewed annually. The subscription shall become due on the first day of January in each year.

17.2 The liability of each Member is strictly limited to the amount of the annual subscription, the commission on sales and any other charges levied by the Council of the Society.

17.3 Any Member whose subscriptions remain unpaid at the close of the Receiving Day for the Annual Exhibition, may at the discretion of the Council be prohibited from exhibiting.

17.4 The Federation of British Artists shall have the power to deduct any payment due to the Society and/or the Federation by any Member from the proceeds of sale of their work at the Society's Exhibition or from any other amounts collected on their behalf.

17.5 All extra payments due for space or other charges shall be paid after the opening of the Exhibition on request; any Member who is in arrears for the previous year shall not be permitted to exhibit unless by special permission of the Council.

## 18. ARREARS

18.1 The Council shall have the power to strike off the list of Members the name of any Member whose subscription is more than twelve months in arrears. Such Member shall cease to belong to the Society but shall be liable for all subscriptions and payments due from them and be responsible equally with the other Members for all expenses and liabilities of the Society until such arrears have been paid, (Rule 17)

## 19. COMMISSION

A commission agreed by the Council on the actual price shall and including VAT be paid to the FBA on all works sold or commissions arranged through the Federation of British Artists.

## 20. EXCLUSION

The Selection Committee together with the Council shall have the power to exclude from any exhibition of the Society, the work of any Member which they, by a majority of 60% may consider unsuitable for exhibition.

## 21. WORKS BY NON-MEMBERS

21.1 Works submitted for exhibition by Non-Members shall be subject to the approval of the Council and the Selection Committee. The Council shall have the power to invite any works by Non-Members for exhibition.

## 22. REMOVAL OF WORKS

22.1 No picture hung shall be removed by an exhibitor until after the close of the exhibition.

## 23. CONDUCT OF MEMBERS



23.1 If the conduct of any Member shall in the opinion of the Council or of any eight Members who shall certify the same to the Council in writing, be injurious to the Society, the Council shall be empowered to call on the Member for an explanation. If this is found unsatisfactory, the Council may recommend in writing to such Member that resignation is the appropriate course of action.

However, if a Member should commit a criminal offence, and if it is the opinion of the Council that such offence compromises the integrity of the Society, then that Member shall be expelled forthwith.' This statement related to such a member will printed out and signed by all members of Council and would be presented to the AGM.

23.2 If the resignation is not forthcoming within fourteen days, then the Council shall be empowered to call a special General Meeting under (Rule 12)

23.3 If at this Meeting a 60% majority of the Members present and voting decide that the Member shall be expelled, they shall cease to be a Member of the Society and shall be so notified.

23.4 Such a Member shall have the right to be heard at a Council Meeting and at the General Meeting but shall not vote on their own case.

## 24. RESIGNATIONS

24.1 Any Member wishing to resign from the Society shall give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary before the 31 December in any year. Such resignations shall take effect from the ensuing 1<sup>st</sup> January. In default of such notice, the subscription for the ensuing year shall be due.

A Member having given due notice of resignation and being in debt to the Federation shall be required to discharge such debt before the expiry of the notice.

## 25. READMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

25.1 Applications from previous Members who have resigned under Rule 24 shall be treated as new applications except at the discretion of the Council.

## 26. MEMBERS' ADDRESSES

26.1 Members shall notify the Secretary of their current addresses and email addresses and subsequently of any changes thereof. Their addresses shall no longer be printed in the catalogue of the Annual Exhibition due to data protection requirements.

26.2 Any communication posted to any address or email address that has been notified to the Secretary and acknowledged, shall be deemed to be sufficient notice for any purpose under these Rules.

## 27. WORKS BY MEMBERS

27.1 The Exhibition shall consist of recent works not previously shown at The Mall Galleries.

## 28. LATE DELIVERY OF WORKS

28.1 No work by Members will be hung if submitted after noon on the day of selection of Non-Members' work except in exceptional circumstances.

## 29. PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY

29.1 The property of the Society shall not belong to the Members as individuals, but to the Society or FBA as a body, and when any Member shall die or cease to be a Member of the Society, their interest in such property shall cease.

The Pastel Society - 23 February 2023