

AMA Association of Miniature Artists



Miniature art has been in existence for centuries tracing its heritage back to the illustrated manuscripts of scribes in the Far East and Europe prior to the 15th century. The current resurgence in popularity in miniature art started in 1896 in England and expanded worldwide in the late 1900's with the founding of several miniature art societies.

The contemporary revival in miniature art has been marked by a clear move towards explicitly including size and scale in the general description of the works. In an effort to encourage and further define the direction of the art form most contemporary societies have adopted a one-sixth scale guideline:

Subjects should be rendered one-sixth their life size or smaller with some leeway given to naturally small subjects (hummingbirds, butterflies and delicate flowers).

Some shows place no guidelines on subject size and limit only the image area. Framing guidelines have been loosened lately to include more molding styles and sizes as long as the overall framed work falls under the set size. Most society exhibitions encourage delicate frames matching the proportions of the artwork.

Foremost in importance in contemporary miniature art is the highly skilled and painstaking techniques should be evident upon viewing the artwork. This is often described as the work should hold up well under magnification. It should draw the viewer's eye deeper and deeper into itself with amazement at the gemlike details of the tiny treasure.

The ultimate goal of the AMA is to develop an international standard for miniature art today. It was conceived and founded by members of the Yahoo Miniature Art Forum in July 2007. Please feel free to copy this page and any text on the AMA website. Any images on the website (besides the AMA logo) may not be copied without permission.

AMA Mission Statement: The Association of Miniature Artists (AMA) was founded to encourage the study of the historical precedents of traditional miniature art, preserve the unique techniques of rendering miniatures, foster a consensus of definition and to enable a spirit of cooperation among members in support of each other and the formal societies dedicated to the advancement of this endearing art form. **AMA Membership:** Membership is free and open to all practicing artists and public supporters (patrons, galleries, museums and art societies). Please read the AMA's guidelines below before requesting membership. Contact Wes Siegrist, siegrist@artofwildlife.com, 865.448.2044 to have your name listed among our membership, or for additional information.

AMA GUIDELINES: While the AMA recognizes and encourages individuality, experimentation and future changes in the miniature art movement, the AMA exists to provide a common ground among members especially in the context of defining their work to the public. As a member of the AMA you choose to agree with the following statements:

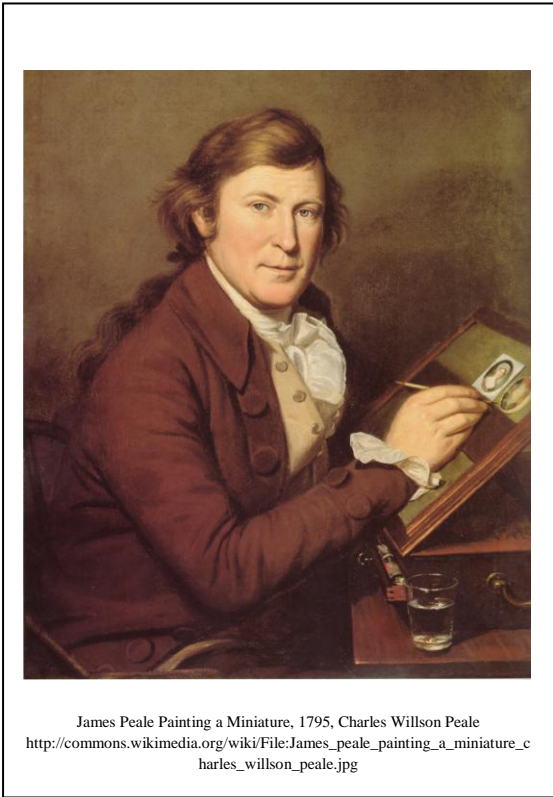
1. Given the historical foundation of traditional miniature art I will strive to understand it better for the promotion, preservation and advancement of the art form.
2. Given the perplex multiple definitions of the term "Miniature" today, I choose to adhere to the following tenets to describe and distinguish traditional miniature work and when possible, will adhere to them in creating, displaying, and marketing artwork as a 'miniature':
 - Minute in scale vs. life sized. For practicality following the general 1/6th scale for my work sent to formal miniature exhibitions and shows.
 - Delicate and painstaking technique that withstands magnification.
 - Small in format and size: 25 inches or less for surface area. Sculpture should fit inside an 8"x8"x8" cube including the base.

- High in quality. The work should exemplify Fine Art ~ demonstrating a mastery of composition, color, values etc.

3. Given my concern for the future of the miniature art form I will do my best to educate artists and the public about the historical and current miniature art movement, contribute work to the exhibitions and volunteer when possible with the existing societies, shows and online forums as interaction with fellow artists is key to better understanding and continued advancement of the genre. My membership in the AMA will continue as long as I work in the miniature art genre and adhere with the statements and tenets.

Optional recommendations:

- Members are highly encouraged to post these three statements online and/or display their AMA status to help promote consensus about traditional miniatures and to facilitate a common definition.
- Members are free to work outside the statements and tenets but should distinguish this work as non-typical-miniature when possible when attempting to define miniature work.
- Members are encouraged to copy the logo for use on your website and promotional materials to help spread the word about the group.
- Members are encouraged to copy the statements to distribute to fellow artists and enclose alongside with artwork when submitting to shows.



History and Goals of the Association of Miniature Artists ~ written by one of the Founders, Wes Siegrist Jan. 2008

The idea for forming an association of miniature artists developed from debates and discussions on the Yahoo Miniature Artists Forum back in June of 2007. At the time the artists were discussing various problems and issues facing miniaturists today...in particular...the widespread confusion due to other art forms laying claim to the name “miniature”. The issues varied by artist but most agreed a solution would be to have all the miniature art societies and shows adopt a general standard of definition. Of course, a debate ensued over who had the best definition and which rules or guidelines should be followed.

It was clear that we were spinning our wheels and getting nowhere in our results. The idea came to me that perhaps a better method would be to agree on a “gist” among ourselves as the individual artists. I shared this thought with a few others who felt it was worth pursuing. The next step involved Andrew Gott and me writing the basic statements for the AMA. We sent these out to our peers on the Forum and several Miniature Society leaders for feedback, suggestions and corrections. Changes were made to try to encapsulate and accommodate as many of the current miniature shows and societies as possible. The working copy of the statements was then presented to the members of the Yahoo Forum as a group for additional feedback with approximately 25 persons being involved in the finalization of the statements.

The owner of the Yahoo Forum, Jim Smith, then chose to adopt the AMA statements as our standard definition of miniature in the group. Over the next five months, a logo was designed by Andrew Gott and he started work on a website while a temporary site was hosted under the Siegrists’ domain name, artofwildlife.com. Discussion about web design, content and Andrew’s work-in-progress ended when his computer suffered a hard drive failure leading to the loss of the materials. Discussions continued both on and off the Forum about the best way to pursue the development of the AMA. It was decided that getting the website online and starting to compile a members list should be the first priority with a time schedule to precede our formal announcement to the world. Diane Bruckner volunteered for the task of setting up the AMA website and the domain name miniatureartist.com was graciously donated by Andrew Gott. The AMA official website debuted in December of 2007.

Goals and insights of the AMA ~ from the perspective of Wes Siegrist:

1. Foster a consensus of definition for “miniature” today in the context of shows, societies and individual artist's exhibitions to help distinguish such work from competing art forms. The AMA acknowledges the broader and more varied definitions of “miniature” but our members CHOOSE to use only one (our statements).
2. Enable a spirit of cooperation among miniaturists that involves potential compromise on a voluntary basis. The AMA does not exist to restrict artistic expression. We request the restriction of the use of the term “miniature” by our members in today's context.
3. The pursuit of education on the individual and public level regarding the history of both the miniature art form and the societies and organizations of our recent history. Members are encouraged to read books about miniatures and visit collections of miniature art in museums.
4. The AMA encourages members to work within the bounds of current societies rather than attempt to change their individual rules and guidelines. Our members believe that miniature art as Fine Art in small scale, both past and present, is unique and distinct within the art world.
5. The ultimate goal of the AMA is to develop an international standard for miniature art today.

Active Miniature Art Societies & Groups as of January 2010:

- AMA: The Association of Miniature Artists (worldwide) - <http://www.miniatureartist.com>
- ASMA (NSW): Australian Society of Miniature Art, Inc.(New South Wales) - <http://www.asma-nsw.com>
- ASMA (Tas): Australian Society of Miniature Art (Tasmania)
- ASMA (Vic): Australian Society of Miniature Art (Victoria)
- CPA: Cider Painters of America, Pennsylvania, USA
- HS: Hilliard Society of Miniaturists, UK - <http://www.art-in-miniature.org>
- MAA: The Miniature Artists of America - <http://www.miniatureartistsofamerica.org>
- MASF: Miniature Art Society of Florida, USA - <http://www.miniatureartsocietyofflorida.com>
- MASSA: Miniature Art Society of South Africa - <http://www.miniatureartsocietyofsa.co.za>
- MPSGS: The Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, DC, USA - <http://www.mpsgs.org>
- RMS: The Royal Miniature Art Society, UK - <http://www.royal-miniature-society.org.uk>
- SLM: Society of Limners, Miniaturists and Calligraphers, UK - <http://www.societyoflimners.co.uk>
- WFM: The World Federation of Miniaturists - <http://www.worldfm.org>
- The Yahoo Miniature Art Forum - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/miniatureart/>

To view information on all of the societies and organizations involved in the Revival Period of miniature painting please visit: <http://www.artofwildlife.com/miniatureartsocieties.html>.

Please visit the AMA website for ongoing updates and miniature art show/society information.
<http://www.miniatureartist.com>. This document last updated January 2010

Image of the Miniature Art Society of Florida's Annual Exhibition and all text courtesy of Wes Siegrist.