

Southern Utah Art Guild

Originality & Artistic Integrity Policy

Red Cliff Gallery is committed to originality, artistic integrity, and respect for intellectual property. All submitted artwork must be the artist's own original creation. This policy explains what that means in practice, including for photography, digital art, and AI.

1. Original Work Requirement

Artwork that copies, traces, or substantially reproduces another artist's work — in whole or in part — is not permitted.

Using reference material to inspire original work is welcome. Using it to replicate an existing image is not. Public-domain photographic references may make up no more than 50% of the finished piece.

2. Artist Responsibility

Artists are solely responsible for ensuring their submissions do not infringe on anyone's copyright, trademark, or other intellectual property rights.

3. Fan Art

Original interpretations of existing characters — your own pose, composition, lighting, and artistic choices — are allowed only when the characters are in the public domain and free of copyright restriction.

4. Photography

Submitted photographs must be the photographer's own original images. Minor adjustments — exposure, color balance, contrast, cropping — are fine. Edits that add, remove, or significantly alter the image's content are not allowed. Using or editing someone else's photograph and presenting it as your own is plagiarism and is prohibited.

5. Digital Art & Painting from Photo Reference

- **Digital tracing of another photographer's or artist's stock image is not allowed.** Tracing over someone else's photo isn't original artwork, even if done digitally.
- **Painting or drawing using another person's photo as a *partial* reference is allowed**, as long as the finished piece is not an exact copy — meaning your composition, interpretation, or execution meaningfully departs from the source photo.
- **If a painting is an exact copy of a reference photo**, you must credit the original photographer. There will be a field on the submission application to provide this credit. Because of copyright complications, exact-copy pieces **cannot be listed for sale** in the gallery — they may still be displayed, but not sold.

6. Use of AI

AI is **not** considered art. No AI involvement is permitted in submitted work — this includes fully AI-generated images and AI-assisted image generation. Work found to involve AI at any stage is not eligible for submission.

Technology is evolving quickly, and this policy may be revisited as AI tools and their role in the art world continue to change. Whatever adjustments come, Red Cliff Gallery's priority remains the same: **we champion human-made art first.**

7. Content Standards

Red Cliff Gallery is a city-sponsored venue open to the public, including families and children. All submitted work must be family-friendly and suitable for a general public audience. Nudity, graphic violence, sexually explicit content, and content promoting hate, discrimination, or illegal activity are not permitted, regardless of artistic intent. The gallery committee reserves the right to make the final determination on whether a piece meets this standard.

8. Enforcement

Red Cliff Gallery reserves the right to reject, remove, or disqualify any artwork found to violate this policy at any stage of submission, exhibition, or sale.

By submitting artwork, artists confirm they own the rights to their work and agree to comply with this policy.