



Walter Withers *Midsummer* (1895)

John Withers Scholarship Program (JWSP)

for Emerging Soft Pastel Artists

Proudly supported by **The Pastel Society of Victoria, Australia (PSVA)**

About the Scholarship

In 2022, John Withers and the Withers family generously proposed a perpetual donation to the Pastel Society of Victoria, Australia, with the vision of supporting emerging artists. That vision has now become a reality. We are proud to offer **four Emerging Artists** the opportunity to explore the beautiful pastel medium with dedicated support.

What the Program Offers

What the Scholarship Provides

Successful applicants will receive a comprehensive package of artistic and professional support, including:

- 16 hours of tuition in a two-day workshop environment
- One year of full PSVA membership
- Free entry to monthly PSVA meetings for one year
- A selection of art materials (pastels and paper)
- A published resource on composition (or a related topic)
- Ongoing mentorship from experienced pastel artists for 12 months
- Entry into the PSVA Annual Exhibition in the year of the award
- Eligibility for a dedicated John Withers Scholarship prize
- Financial assistance toward framing work



- Access to one half-price workshop (within 18 months of entering the program)
(Note: travel, accommodation, and meals are not included)
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Applicant Commitments

Scholarship recipients are expected to actively engage with the PSVA community and program requirements, including:

- Attend the two-day workshop, "*Unlocking the Mysteries of Pastel*", on 8 & 9 August 2026
 - Maintain a two-year PSVA membership
 - Submit **at least one painting** to the PSVA Annual Exhibition October 2026
 - Actively engage with the appointed mentor in a meaningful and professional manner
 - Attend the **Opening Ceremony** of the PSVA Annual Exhibition November 2026
 - Attend the **Certificate Presentation Ceremony at the AGM 2027**
 - Maintain a working **email address**
 - A social media presence is encouraged but not essential
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Am I Eligible?

This scholarship is open to **Emerging Artists**. For this program, an "emerging artist" is defined as:

An artist with minimal experience in the pastel medium and who has not won major art prizes (excluding those awarded in educational institutions).

- Two scholarship places are reserved for current PSVA members
- Two places are open to artists from outside the PSVA

Applicants must be aged 18 or over.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2026-2027 intake are now open.

Please submit the following to **Ros Chiarotto** at: jwsp@vicpastel.com.au

- A brief **artist biography** (max. 300 words)
- A **300-word statement** on how the program will support your artistic journey
- **2- 4 soft pastel artworks** you have completed

Applications close 30 June 2026
