



Walter Withers *Tranquil Winter* (1895)

John Withers Scholarship Program (JWSP)

for Emerging Soft Pastel Artists

proudly supported by the

The Pastel Society of Victoria, Australia

About the Scholarship

In 2022, John Withers generously proposed a perpetual donation to The Pastel Society of Victoria, Australia Inc. (PSVA), 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

Selected participants will receive:

- 16 hours of tuition in a workshop environment (over two days)
- One-year **Full Membership** with PSVA
- Free entry to PSVA monthly meetings (for one year)
- Art materials, including soft pastels and paper
- Mentorship from experienced pastel artists (12-month duration)
- Guaranteed entry into the **PSVA 39th Annual Exhibition (Oct/Nov 2026)**
- A **dedicated prize** awarded to the top John Withers Scholarship Program participant



- Financial support for framing works
- One **half-price** workshop (of your choice) run by the PSVA in 2026/2027

Please note: Travel, accommodation, and meals are not included.

Participant Commitments

Successful applicants must agree to:

- Attend the two-day Workshop *Unlocking the Mysteries of Pastel* **8th to 9th August 2026**
- Maintain a two-year PSVA membership, following on from your Scholarship
- Attend the **Certificate Presentation Ceremony**
- Submit **at least one painting** to the PSVA Annual Exhibition held 30 Oct – 14 Nov 2026
- Attend the **Opening Ceremony** of the PSVA Annual Exhibition on 31 October 2026
- Have a working email address and a social media presence

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 **Rosslyn Chiarotto** via email 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
- At least **4 soft pastel artworks** you have completed

**Applications closed 30 June
2026**
