



2020 - 2026

CRIMSON

CRIMSON BRUSH



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What is the Crimson Brush?

The Crimson Brush is an open-format painting competition held at Cancon. In 2026, the event will be led by Trent Denison. We have two separate judging panels this year. For Standard, our judging panel is Liam Howell, Jasmin Caferra and Tim Dunford, and for Masters, our judging panel is Albert Moreto Font, Alexi Karahilou and Piotrek Czaka. We endeavour to bring the Crimson Brush to as many people as possible. In 2026, we will be continuing our live coverage of the event; with footage from the event, seminars, and interviews with attendees and judges. We will also be livestreaming a part of the judging process. We will be reducing the amount of judging streamed, to ensure the quality of the experience matches our vision.

Painters Lounge Deluxe

In past years, the Crimson Brush has included an area for painters to paint, chat and hang out. This year, we will be ensuring the Painters Lounge will be bigger and better than ever, as we now have an entire room dedicated to the Lounge. We will have more room for painters to hang out, paint and view the livestream. There will also be a speed painting competition, and other activities hosted by the CB team.

Seminars

This year, we will be aiming to do some short seminars with painters. However, rather than limiting these to a limited number of attendees, we will be making these part of our live streaming coverage! Stay tuned to our social media as we will announce the timing of these seminars, as well as the painters who'll be doing them.



COMPETE

Format and Categories

The Crimson Brush follows the Open System format. There are three standards of painting the judges will be basing their decisions on: Gold, Silver and Bronze. There is no limit to the number of awards that can be given out. As an example, if there are 25 entries in a category, and 15 are of a Gold standard, then all 15 will be awarded Gold. We will also be awarding Highly Commended for entrants that did not quite make the medals, but the judges felt deserved recognition.

We continue to look for ways to improve the Crimson Brush. As per last year, there will be both a Standard and Masters category. This year we are adding an additional category known as the Crimson Challenger. So there is more structure for the Standard category, we will retain the additional categories for Standard entrants.

Why Did We Introduce Standard and Masters?

The biggest risk in separating into these categories is dividing the community and creating the feeling of cliques, or a cool kids club. We have such a small (but growing) scene, and it is more important for us to continue to try to bring artists together. We believe we have reached a point with the Australian scene where the level of painting that inspires, may also be intimidating for newer painters. We want to encourage ALL painters to participate and get involved. Without entrants of all skill levels, competition loses meaning.

Which Category Do I Enter?

Each entrant will decide for themselves whether to enter Standard or Masters. An entrant must submit all of their entries to only one category, and may additionally enter the Crimson Challenger (see below). The organisers can provide a recommendation for a painter if they are uncertain where to place their work, however the final choice will remain with the individual painter.

Juniors

The lifeblood of our scene is our younger painters. Whilst we've not always done a great job at celebrating those newer painters to our scene, we continue to learn and improve. Any entrant under the age of 16 will be eligible for our Juniors award. When purchasing entries please note if you are eligible for this category, or let us know on the day.



Who Should Enter Masters?

Previous Gold Medal winners at this event, or any other. Painters who want to compete against the best in the world. Choosing to enter Masters is an achievement, and one to be celebrated. All entrants in Masters will receive a Masters pin, and may be asked to assist in judging some of the other awards listed below. However, this category will be more ruthlessly judged than any event prior.

Who Should Enter Standard?

If you've never submitted your work to a painting event before. If you have entered an event, but not won a Gold medal. If you mostly do "army painting".

For the majority of entrants to the Crimson Brush, this is the category to enter. When this category is judged, our focus will be on celebrating improvement, rewarding creativity, and supporting painters. This has been our approach towards judging in previous years.

Standard Categories

Single Figure: Wargaming scale figures, but not including Monster models etc

Unit: 3 or more models from a unit

Large Figure & Bust: 54mm and larger, busts and monsters

Open: Anything that doesn't fit into the other categories

Important Note: So we can give both Standard and Masters time and respect during the judging process, we are closing Standard entries on Saturday at 1:00pm, and Masters entries on Sunday at 1:00pm. The respective judging for both will commence shortly after entries close.

CRIMSON BRUSH RULES

NEW CATEGORY – Crimson Challenger

In our efforts to continue elevating the Crimson Brush and attempt to bring the community together, we are introducing a new category, the Crimson Challenger. This category is open to any attendee who wishes to challenge themselves against the best our event has to offer.

Note: Entering this category does not prevent you from also entering one of the other two categories. You can submit your piece in this category, and still enter Standard or Masters with other entries.

All entrants will be required to paint and present the SAME FIGURE, selected by the organisers. For this inaugural version of the Crimson Challenger, the figure is from Games Workshop, The Lord Of Blights There will be only ONE Winner of the Crimson Challenger. It's a showdown against the best, and only one painter will emerge victorious!

Awards

We have reduced the number of awards this year, for a few reasons. We want to simplify the process for Standard entrants, and we want to focus on the prestige that is associated with winning the Best in Show in each category. Our other awards are aimed at growing and celebrating the Australian scene.

Best in Show – Selected by Judging Panel (from either the Crimson Challenger, or Masters)

Best in Show Contenders – Selected by Judging Panel (from either the Challenger, or Masters)

Best in Standard – Selected by Judging Panel
The Official Trent Denison Award For Most Entries – Most Entries

Veiled Lamp Award – Selected by Sebastian Archer (Veiled Lamp range)

Juniors Award – Selected by Masters Entrants
Streams Choice Award – Stream Participants Choose Winner

Each of these awards will be accompanied by additional prizes, which include donated products from event sponsors. In previous events, we've done a lucky dip for prizes so all entrants will walk away with something cool! This year is no exception, and as an incentive to pre-register, the FIRST prize selected from the lucky dip will be from those who pre-register before January 11th, 2025.

The Crimson Brush Rules

1. There is a \$5 submission fee per entry. The submission deadline is 1:00pm on Saturday for Standard and 1:00pm on Sunday for Masters. You can pre-register for competition entries online, or you can pay via PayPal / PayID during Cancon prior to the submission deadline. We will not be accepting cash.

2. All entries must be submitted by the artist who created them, in person and by the posted deadline. Only one artist can have worked on the entry; no team entries are allowed.

3. There is no limit on the number of submissions per artist.

4. No mail-in entries are allowed or will be accepted. If you would like to participate in the painting competition, you must be present at Cancon in order to compete.

5. By entering the Crimson Brush, you agree to let CGS and the event organisers photograph your entries for use in galleries, ads and promotional materials.

6. The Crimson Brush team will take every care in handling models during the event, but are not responsible for any damage that may be sustained during the event.

7. You will be responsible for picking up your entry between 2pm and 4pm on Monday, January 26th, 2026. Anyone who does not pick up their entries by this deadline will forfeit ownership of their entries.

8. Judges' decisions are final and not subject to change. Entrants may ask the judges panel for feedback on their entry and receive a constructive critique. The judging process will be transparent and people are invited to observe.



Payment

To sign up for the Painting Lounge or to pay for Crimson Brush entries, please visit:
[LINK](#)

Judges Table

We have extended an opportunity for painters who were unable to view the livestream to ask judges for critique in previous years. This year we will have a more structured approach. More information to come during the leadup to the event.

Livestream

With so many people spread across vast distances in Australia, we have always been challenged in bringing people together for this hobby. This year, we will be hosting some seminars as well, with world class painters sharing some fantastic tips and tricks, in addition to everything else already discussed!

Photos

As per previous years, we will be attempting to take a high quality photo of every single entry, to showcase the amazing standard of work that the Crimson Brush draws. Thanks to David Colwell for once again volunteering his time and expertise to photography. Whilst we endeavour to photograph every entry, there is no guarantee.

Please note, for figures to be eligible for photography, they must be mounted on a plinth of some description. This includes units.

The Painters Lounge

Cost: \$30 for the whole weekend, anytime!

Hours: 9am to 6pm

As per previous events, we want to encourage the painting community to grow, which means giving painters and sculptors a place to create and communicate over the weekend. You can sit and paint, draw, sculpt or do anything artistic with other artists. These events are great to spike personal creativity as well as community cohesion.

The Lounge has levelled up this year, having its own room! Although this has increased our capacity, we will no doubt still come close to hitting it again, so please register early!

We will provide the tables, chairs, a couple of power boards, water cups and paper towels. There is a sink in the room where you can access water when needed. Painters are encouraged to bring extra power boards, travel lamps, paint, brushes, palettes, projects, and whatever else they may need to be comfortable over the weekend. At the end of the day, you may leave your supplies and projects overnight as we have a secure space.

****Please note: you leave your belongings at your own risk and neither CGS or Crimson Brush are responsible if anything goes missing or gets damaged.****

THE CRIMSON BRUSH SCHEDULE

The Crimson Brush Schedule

Saturday, January 24h – Monday, January 26th

Saturday, 24th

8:45am: Doors Open

9:00am: Painting Lounge Opens

1:00pm: Standard Registration Closes

2:00pm: Standard Judging Livestream Commences

6:00pm: Painting Lounge Closes and Doors Locked

Sunday, 25th

8:45am: Doors Open

9:00am: Painting Lounge Opens

11:00am: Standard Judge Table

12:00pm: Masters Registration Closes

1:00pm: Judging Livestream Commences

6:00pm: Painting Lounge Closes and Doors Locked

Monday, 26th

8:45am: Doors Open

9:00am: Painting Lounge Opens

10:00am: Stream Choice Awards

11:00am: Masters Judge Table

1:00pm: Awards Ceremony

2:00pm: Painting Lounge Closes and Model Collection Begins



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