

MCKNIGHT  
**ARTIST**  
FELLOWSHIPS

## 2020 Application Guidelines

### McKnight Fellowships for Visual Artists

Administered by the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD)  
[www.mcad/mcknight.edu](http://www.mcad/mcknight.edu)

## FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW

The goal of the McKnight Visual Artist Fellowships program is to identify talented Minnesota visual artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit and who are at a career stage that is beyond early career. The fellowship program supports established artists by providing significant financial assistance, by creating opportunities to meet with local and national art professionals, by organizing a McKnight Discussion Series featuring the fellows and invited critics, and by working with the fellows to create an individualized professional development plan.

The MCAD-administered fellowship program uses an independent jury of three arts professionals to competitively award six fellowships. The fellowship runs for two years, June 1, 2020–May 31, 2022, and includes:

- \$25,000 unrestricted fellowship funding may be used to enhance any aspect of the artist's life, such as overhead costs, the purchase of materials, travel, and other living expenses. Awards are subject to state and federal income tax guidelines.
- \$3,000 Professional Development Funds may be used for publications, equipment/material purchases, travel expenses for research, workshops, conferences, residencies, shipping expenses for exhibitions, etc.
- Access to MCAD's facilities, library, and ½ off tuition for Continuing Education courses (one per semester).
- First Year: Six studio visits from national critics/curators/arts professionals.
- Second Year: Opportunity to invite three of the visiting critics back to participate in a McKnight Discussion Series where two fellows and a selected critic develop a dialogue related to their art practices.

## DEADLINES & KEY DATES

### Application opens:

Friday, January 31, 2020

### Deadline:

Friday, March 20, 2020 at noon (CT)

## INFO SESSIONS

### Thursday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

*Application Overview*

Minneapolis College of Art and Design  
2501 Stevens Avenue, Minneapolis  
Auditorium 150

### Wednesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

*Application Overview and Grant Writing Workshop with Springboard for the Arts*  
Second Shift Studio Space  
1128 Payne Avenue, St. Paul

### Monday, February 24, 6:30 p.m.

*Work Samples, Statements, and Application Strategies*  
All My Relations Arts  
1414 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis

### Saturday, March 7, 4:00 p.m.

*Work Samples, Statements, and Application Strategies*  
Juxtaposition Arts  
2007 North Emerson Avenue, Minneapolis

## SUPPORT

Applicants are welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (in person or over the phone) with Program Director Kerry Morgan or Fellowship Coordinator Melanie Pankau before submitting their applications online. To schedule a meeting please call **612.874.3667** or email **[gallery@mcad.edu](mailto:gallery@mcad.edu)**



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**The intent of this program is to recognize and support midcareer artists living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence. Artists who are eligible for these fellowships:**

- Have or maintain MN residency for at least one year prior to application (i.e. since March 20, 2019) and for the duration of the fellowship years.
- Are midcareer with a body of work that demonstrates a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence. Have at least eight (8) years of professional exhibition experience in group and/or solo shows. Exhibitions undertaken as part of a degree-seeking program at an institution of higher learning will not be considered (i.e. senior or thesis exhibitions, juried student shows, etc.).
- Create work that falls within a fine arts context. The “visual arts” category is broad in scope and encompasses areas of painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, mixed media, installation, and multimedia. Multimedia is defined as the combination of a time-based art form (film, video, sound or animation) with another art form (sculpture, painting, drawing, etc.).
- Be willing to participate in all aspects of the fellowship program, including some meetings, studio visits by art critics, and a McKnight Discussion Series.
- Can only apply to one 2020 McKnight Artist Fellowship in any artistic discipline (i.e. visual arts, ceramics, book arts, fiber arts, printmaking, media arts, community engaged, choreographers, dancers, composers, musicians, playwrights, theater arts, writers).
- Have not been a recipient of a McKnight Artist Fellowship within any artistic discipline in the last five award years. Anyone who received a fellowship in any discipline in or before 2014 is eligible to apply.
- Demonstrate growth and ongoing artistry since their most recent McKnight Artist Fellowship.
- Are not staff, board, or immediate family of the McKnight Foundation or fellowship administrative partners. For the purposes of McKnight Artist Fellowships, faculty and independent contractors are not considered staff.
- Are not enrolled full-time in an academic program.

## SELECTION PROCESS

### **Jury Panel:**

A three-member panel consisting of experienced and well-respected arts professionals selects the McKnight Fellows. The jurors are curators, directors, art critics, artists, and educators with an appreciation for and knowledge of diverse aesthetic perspectives and contemporary art practices. All panelists are from outside Minnesota. Panelists, insofar as possible, represent a diversity of age, ethnicity, gender, and geography.

*The McKnight Visual Arts Fellowship panelists remain anonymous during the selection process. The names of the panelists are revealed once the fellowship recipients are announced.*

### **Review Process:**

Applicants are evaluated and selected based on the quality of their work as evidenced in submitted materials, most importantly work samples. Consideration is given to accomplishments to date as well as promise for continued development and the impact the fellowship will have on the artist. The panel will also be asked to consider the breadth of artistic practices among Minnesota artists, which include a wide range of media, aesthetics, and traditions that might be influenced by ethnicity, gender, and geography.

First Round: The jury panel reviews submissions in the form of digital images viewed on a monitor for the first round. Their decisions will be tabulated and the 25-30 applicants with the highest numerical score will move onto the next round.

Second Round: In a conference call the three panelists discuss the top 25-30 applicants. Those applicants receiving the greatest interest will be contacted to schedule studio visits. Email notification will be sent to all applicants not progressing to the final round by Friday, May 8.

Studio Visits for Finalists: The Program Director will notify by phone the artists identified for final review by Friday, May 8. Jurors will conduct twelve studio visits on Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22. The Program Director will work with any finalist whose studio is outside the Twin Cities to make alternative arrangements to meet the jurors.

Notification: Upon completion of the studio visits, the Program Director will call the six fellowship recipients and email the other finalists of the results. The Program Office will notify all applicants via email of the jurors' final decision by Monday, June 8.

*MCAD fellowship staff who oversee the McKnight Fellowship program do not contribute to the decision-making process or the selection of the McKnight Visual Artist Fellows. The role of the staff is to provide clarity for the review process and to ensure that the panel review and discussion proceed in accordance with the program's guidelines.*



# APPLICATION MATERIALS

## Application link:

<https://mcad.submittable.com/submit>

### 1. Contact Information and Questionnaire Form

### 2. Proof of MN residency

- Applicant must have or maintain MN residency for at least one year prior to application deadline (since March 20, 2019). Please upload a copy of one of the following: MN driver's license (or MN identification card); a utility bill in the applicant's name; lease; or other supporting documents.

### 3. Ten Images/Work Samples

- Images must be in JPEG format.
- Individual files should not exceed 5 MB.
- Upload files in the order you would like them to be viewed. Each juror reviews applications individually, one image at a time, on a personal computer monitor.
- Label files this way: 1\_title.jpg, 2\_title.jpg (For example, 1\_Stars.jpg, 2\_Moon.jpg)
- Provide: title, year, medium, dimension (h x w x d) in inches.
- Optional 400-character annotation describing the medium, context, or installation of a particular work. Info should provide the juror with a greater understanding of what they are viewing. Avoid personal commentary and interpreting the work for the jurors.

### 4. Two Videos (optional)

- Videos will be accepted as mp4, mov, avi, mpg, 3gp, flv, webm, wmv, mkv, or m4v files.
- 3 minutes maximum in length.
- Upload each video as one work sample and in the order you would like them to be viewed. Please leave ample time for the upload.
- Provide: title, year, medium, duration. Indicate whether or not there is sound.
- Optional 400-character annotation describing the content, context, or site of a particular work. Info should provide the juror with a greater understanding of what they are viewing. Avoid personal commentary and interpreting the work for the jurors.
- Video submissions should supplement, not replace or extend, the ten still images. Therefore, any video, kinetic, or time-based work referenced in a multimedia installation must be indicated by at least one still image in the sequence of ten. Because of the blind jury process, ideally there should be no voiceover narration, artist appearance or name included in the video submission. **Process documentation videos, walk-throughs or walk-arounds of static works or studio, and documentation of additional works not included in your ten still images will result in the video being removed from your application.**

## APPLICATION MATERIALS (cont.)

### 5. Additional PDF (optional)

- For artists' work that involves text, artist books, book spreads, didactics, or texts that are unreadable in the images submitted.
- Five page maximum. Limited to 5 MB.
- Label file this way: Additional\_PDF.pdf
- The PDF attachment should supplement, not replace or extend, the ten still images. Therefore, any work referenced in the PDF must be indicated by at least one still image in the sequence of ten.

### 6. Résumé (list format)

- Upload a current résumé that highlights your professional accomplishments and achievements, including exhibitions, awards, and grants.
- Label file this way: Resume.pdf
- DO NOT include your name, home or studio address, phone number or e-mail address on the résumé.
- Information on preparing a professional artist résumé is available at the College Art Association web site:  
<http://www.collegeart.org/standards-and-guidelines/guidelines/resume>

### 7. Artist Statement

- Upload artist statement. (500 words max.)
- Label file this way: Artist\_Statement.pdf
- DO NOT include your name, home/studio address, phone number, or email address.
- The work sample/artist statement should directly speak to the images you are submitting. It may also provide information about your background, the development or current direction of your work, or other information you would like to present to the panel.

