

MCKNIGHT  
**ARTIST**  
FELLOWSHIPS

## 2021 Application Guidelines

### McKnight Fellowships for Visual Artists

Administered by the Minneapolis College of Art and Design  
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 beyond an early career stage. 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, 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, 2021–May 31, 2023, 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.
- \$3,000 Professional Development Funds may be used for publications, equipment/material purchases, travel expenses, workshops, etc.
- Professional documentation of artwork.
- 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.
- Participation in a 1–2 week artist residency at one of twenty partnering residency programs with the Alliance of Artists Communities (AAC).
- Eight hours of consulting time, support, and resources from Springboard for the Arts.

## DEADLINES & KEY DATES

### Application opens:

Friday, January 29, 2021

### Deadline:

Friday, March 26, 2021 at noon (CT)

## INFO SESSIONS

### *Application Overview*

(with Program Director Kerry Morgan)

Pre-recorded, link available by Feb. 5

### *Work Samples, Statements, and Application Strategies*

(with 2020 McKnight fellow Tina Tavera)

Pre-recorded, link available by Feb. 5

### **Thursday, February 18, noon–1:00 p.m.**

### *Work Samples, Statements, and Application Strategies*

(with Fellowship Coordinator Melanie Pankau)

Zoom ([link](#))

### **Tuesday, March 2, 5:30–6:30 p.m.**

### *Work Samples, Statements, and Application Strategies*

(with Fellowship Coordinator Melanie Pankau)

Zoom ([link](#))

## SUPPORT

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



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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

- **MN Resident:** Have or maintain MN residency for at least one year prior to application (i.e. since March 26, 2020) and for the duration of the fellowship years.
- **Mid-Career Artist:** Have at least eight (8) years of professional experience in group and/or solo exhibitions, artist residencies, awarded fellowships/grants, publications, etc. 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, comic/sequential art, 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.).
- **Program Participation:** Are willing to participate in all aspects of the fellowship program, including fellow meetings, studio visits by art critics, and a McKnight Discussion Series.
- **Exclusive Application:** Can only apply to one 2021 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).
- **Sit Out Period of Five Years:** 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 2015 is eligible to apply.
- **Demonstrate growth** and ongoing artistry since their most recent McKnight Artist Fellowship.
- **No Conflict of Interest:** Are not staff, board, or immediate family of the McKnight Foundation or MCAD. For the purposes of McKnight Artist Fellowships, faculty and independent contractors are not considered staff.
- **Not a full-time student:** Applicants and fellows cannot be enrolled full-time in a degree-seeking 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.

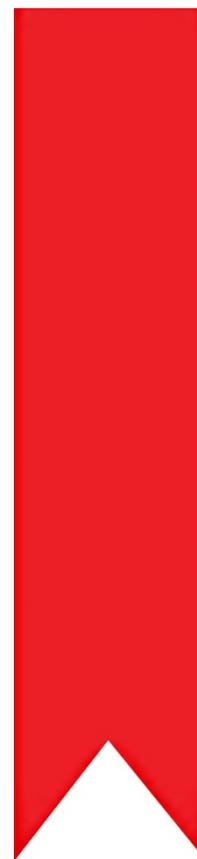
First Round: The jury panel reviews submissions in the form of digital images viewed on a monitor for the first round. Their decisions will be tabulated and the 20-25 applicants with the highest numerical score will move onto the next round.

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 7.

Online Studio Visits for Finalists: The Program Director will notify by phone the artists identified for final review by Friday, May 7. Jurors will conduct twelve online studio visits on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22.

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 7.

*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 26, 2020). 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 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 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, texts, or complex installation views that include multiple components 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 work sample/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.

