

TEXTILE CENTER MCKNIGHT FELLOWSHIPS FOR FIBER ARTISTS

Established in 1981, the McKnight Artist Fellowships provide annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in 14 different creative disciplines. Program partner organizations administer the fellowships and structure them to respond to the unique challenges of different disciplines.

The McKnight Foundation, a family foundation based in Minnesota, advances a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and planet thrive. The McKnight Artist Fellowships support the conviction that the arts cannot flourish or enhance community life without the ideas, energy, and drive of individual artists, and that artists cannot make these contributions without unfettered creative time. A focus on racial equity is at the heart of the McKnight approach to funding. The McKnight Foundation and Textile Center welcome and encourage applications from artists representing diverse cultural perspectives and our organizations value diversity and equity, seeking to be inclusive and accessible to all applicants.

The intent of the *McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists* is to recognize and support talented Minnesota fiber and textile artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit, who have created a significant body of artwork over a period of at least 8 years, representing a sustained investigation and maturation of personal creativity, accomplishment, and commitment to the field of fiber art and Minnesota's arts ecosystem. These fellowships are in support of artists who are at a career stage *beyond* emerging. Fiber Artists, as defined for the purposes of this fellowship, are artists who use textile and fiber arts materials, processes and/or sensibilities in their artistic practice throughout the conception, execution, and resolution of their work.

Fellowship Period: January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Application period opens: Monday, September 9, 2019, 9 AM, CST

Deadline for applications: Friday, November 8, 2019, 5 PM, CST

FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

- \$25,000 (unrestricted) fellowship funding. Fellowship support may be used for the enhancement of any aspect of the artist's life, including but not limited to purchasing materials and equipment; studio assistance; collaborating with other artists; pursuing workshop, exhibition, or travel opportunities related to the creation of studio work; and other living expenses. Awards are subject to state and federal income tax guidelines.
- Critiques/studio visits with three critics from the field.
- Exhibition at the end of the fellowship period in the Joan Mondale Gallery at Textile Center.
- Participation in two public discussions that feature fellows and invited critics.
- Professional development support, such as attending conferences, workshops, and marketing advice for their work.
- Access to Textile Center's resources, including library, dye lab, and artisan shop opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must have resided in Minnesota for at least 1 year prior to the application deadline (or since November 8, 2018).
- Must maintain residency in Minnesota for the duration of the fellowship period, January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. Fellows who travel for work outside of the state during the fellowship year should be in the state for at least six months (at least 183 days) and should have a plan to return to Minnesota.
- Must be midcareer with an extensive, independent body of artwork created over a period of at least 8 years, representing a sustained investigation and maturation of personal creativity, accomplishment, and commitment to the field of fiber art.
- Must currently be producing work that falls within an arts context, related to the field of fiber and textiles through materials, process, or sensibilities.
- Must demonstrate a high aesthetic level of artistic ability, strong consistency of expression, and an established personal voice over the course of their career.
- Must have made a significant impact in the field of fiber art in the region, state, or nation as demonstrated by respect of peers and community, contributions to excellence, and public recognition of the art form through exhibiting, teaching, preserving and/or advocacy.
- Must not have been a recipient of a McKnight Artist Fellowship within any artistic discipline in the last 5 years. (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 McKnight Fellows are ineligible.)
- Must demonstrate growth and ongoing artistry since their most recent McKnight Artist Fellowship.
- Must not be current staff, board, or immediate family of Textile Center, the McKnight Foundation, or any of McKnight's other fellowship administrative partners. Independent contractors and faculty are not considered staff and are therefore eligible to apply.
- Must not be enrolled full-time in any academic program.

Note: Applicants to this fellowship program will not be eligible to apply for any other 2020 McKnight Artist Fellowships. You can only submit one application during each fellowship year. Please carefully consider which program best fits your work. To view all of McKnight's fellowship funding opportunities for the year, visit mcknight.org/programs/arts/the-mcknight-artist-fellowships/#apply

PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Deadline:

November 8, 2019, 5:00 pm CST

Start your application early. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

You will not be able to upload files after 5 p.m. CST on November 8, 2019. At that time the system immediately stops accepting applications, even if you are in the middle of working on it.

APPLICATION SYSTEM

All applicants will use the online system *Submittable*. To access the system, click the **SUBMIT** button on our website and follow the instructions to create an account with Submittable.

- After clicking “Apply,” Submittable will prompt you to either create an account or log in.
- You will need to provide your email address, a password, and your first and last names.
- Once you create your account, you will be taken to the “Welcome to Submittable” page, containing information about Submittable. To enter the McKnight Fellowship Application, click “Continue.”
- Organize your application materials. We strongly recommend that you assemble all of the application components in advance.
- Upload your application materials. Required fields are marked with an asterisk.
- When you are finished, **do not forget to click the “Apply” button to submit your application.** You must agree to the Terms of Use by checking a box prior to submitting.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

NOTE: PLEASE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO GUIDELINES AS YOU PREPARE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR SUBMISSION. DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME, EMAIL, WEBSITE, OR ANY OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON YOUR DOCUMENTS. FILE NAMES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO THE JURY.

Work Samples (Required)

- Upload 10 digital images of your work. **Save each image as a JPG or JPEG.**
- **Images may not include any identifying information. Please remove all names, logos, etc.**
- Maximum file size is 5 MB/image. Reduce file size when saving final JPGs, if necessary.
- **Submit your best work and your best images** (from the last 6 – 10 years, suggested). This is the primary criteria for selection of finalists.
- Upload and organize your images in the order that you want the jurors to view them.
- Your images should be rotated to view correctly when opened.

In the application process, work sample uploads allow for the inclusion of image information during the upload process. Including the requested metadata with each photo, in addition to the Image List, helps the jurors facilitate a smooth review process.

Jurors will view these images on multiple different computer screens. Your images may include full views, alternative views (often helpful in understanding dimensional work), installation shots, and details—whatever it takes to convey the best presentation of your studio practice. NO composite images allowed, which means do not include more than one photo per JPG.

Image List (Required)

Prepare an image list corresponding to the order of your 10 uploaded images. **Limit to 1 page, and attach as a PDF.** Include the following information for each image:

- Title
- Dimensions—Height x Width x Depth—use DETAIL or INSTALLATION, if appropriate

- Materials Used
- Techniques Used
- Year Completed

Artist Statement (Required)

Please prepare an artist statement no longer than 750 words. ***Attach as a PDF.***

There are no rules to writing this statement—but it is a chance to tell the jurors about yourself and the work and provide a context for what you do and why you do it.

Suggestions to consider:

- What do you see as the future direction of your work, and how will the fellowship support this?
- Why is this a pivotal moment in your practice where receiving this fellowship will make a difference?
- How do you contextualize your work in terms of contemporary art, and how does your work make a compelling contribution to the field of contemporary fiber art?

Résumé (Required)

Submit a current résumé that highlights your professional accomplishments and achievements including exhibitions (solo and group), lectures, residencies, publications, awards, grants, and major collections. ***Attach as a PDF.***

Proof of MN Residency (Required)

Applicant must have or maintain MN residency for at least one year prior to application deadline (since November 8, 2018). Applicants will have to upload of one of the following:

- MN Drivers License
- MN Identification Card
- Tribal Identification Card, indicating geographic location
- Copy of a lease or utility bill in the applicant's name
- Other relevant supporting documents

Attach as a PDF, JPG, or JPEG

REVIEW PROCESS

Jury Members:

A three-member jury panel consisting of experienced and well-respected fiber and textile art professionals selects the McKnight Fiber Artist Fellows. The jurors are working artists, academics, critics, and curators within the field of Fiber Art, with an appreciation for and knowledge of a diverse range of styles and genres within the discipline. Jurors, insofar as possible, represent a diversity of age, ethnicity, gender, and geography.

The McKnight Fiber Artist Fellowship jurors remain anonymous during the selection process.

Selection Process:

Applicants are evaluated and selected based on the quality of their work as evidenced in submitted materials, most importantly work samples. Distinctive voice, exceptional artistic merit and integrity, and the content of the artist statement will be considered during the selection process. (Budgets and proposals are NOT part of this fellowship proposal.)

Consideration is given to accomplishments to date, as well as promise for continued development and the impact the fellowship could have on the artist.

The jurors will also be asked to consider the breadth of artistic practices among Minnesota artists, which include a wide range of styles and genres, which may be influenced by ethnicity, gender, and geography—in support of McKnight Foundation's and Textile Center's missions *to support equity, diversity, and inclusion*.

First Round Selection Process:

Jurors will review the images of work, image list, and statements via **Submittable** as a part of the application. The jury will choose eight of the applications to advance to the second round. Jurors are not given the names or demographic information of applicants in the first round.

The jurors will see each image individually at its full size (not as the small preview you see when you submit your application). Images will be viewed in the order you submit them (i.e., Image 1 will be first, Image 10 will be last). Title, media, and other information you submit with the images will be displayed with each image.

Applicants who do not advance to the second round are notified via email by December 10, 2019.

Second Round Selection Process:

In a conference call, jurors will re-review images, artist statements, and resumes for the eight (8) semifinalists and engage in discussion about the artist applicants. Four finalists will then be selected to conduct studio visits with the jurors in early December 2019. Demographic information may be shared with the jury during this round.

Finalists:

Four (4) finalists will be selected to conduct studio visits with the jurors. The Program Director will work with any finalist who resides outside the Twin Cities to make alternative arrangements to meet the jurors.

During the final selection process, jurors consider the visits, presentation of work, and conversation with finalists alongside previously submitted materials in selecting two (2) fellowship recipients.

Upon completion of the final visits and deliberation, the Program Director will call the two fellowship recipients and email the other finalists the results. Program staff will notify all applicants of the jurors' final decisions by January 17, 2020.

INFORMATION SESSIONS and ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

Textile Center program staff will conduct information sessions at Textile Center and other locations to go over the application process, both its content and technical aspects. Information about info sessions:

textilecentermn.org/mcknightfiberartfellowships/

Info Session #1—Monday, September 16, 5:30 pm at Textile Center

Applicants are also welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (in person or over the phone) with the Program Director before submitting their applications online. To schedule a meeting, please call 612-436-0464 to set an appointment with Tracy Krumm. Limited appointments are available.

Please note: we will not be able to schedule one-on-one meetings after November 1, 2019.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions after reviewing these guidelines, please contact:

Tracy Krumm
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