



## 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, 2021 – December 31, 2021

**Application period opens:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020, NOON, CST

**Deadline for applications:** Friday, November 13, 2020, 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, or marketing or exhibition assistance.
- Access to Textile Center’s resources, including library, dye lab, and artisan shop opportunities.
- Professional support sessions from consultants at Springboard for the Arts.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Must have resided in Minnesota for at least 1 year prior to the application deadline (or since November 13, 2019).
- Must maintain residency in Minnesota for the duration of the fellowship period, January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021. 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 (or later) 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. (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 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 2021 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](https://mcknight.org/programs/arts/the-mcknight-artist-fellowships/#apply)

## **PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **Application Deadline:**

**November 13, 2020, 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 13, 2020. 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 or log into an already established account with Submittable.

- After clicking “Apply,” Submittable will prompt you to either create an account or log in.
- To create an account, 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.
- You must agree to the Terms of Use by checking a box prior to submitting.
- When you are finished, **do not forget to click the “Apply” button to submit your application.**

## **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.**

**IF YOUR PROOF OF RESIDENCE IS NOT CURRENT, YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE FLAGGED AS INCOMPLETE AND YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED.**

### **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. Check them before you upload.

In the application process, work sample uploads allow for the inclusion of written 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. 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:

- 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?
- What do you see as the future direction of your work, what is informing it, and how will the fellowship support this?
- Why is this a pivotal moment in your practice where receiving this fellowship will make a difference?

### **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 13, 2019). Applicants will have to upload a **CURRENT document** as proof, such as 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 for 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 11, 2020.

### **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. Demographic information may be shared with the jury during this round.

### **Finalists:**

Four (4) finalists will be selected to conduct remote, virtual studio visits via ZOOM with the jurors in mid-December 2020—on a date to be determined by Textile Center. Textile Center will host the ZOOM sessions, and each finalist will be responsible for preparing their own presentation, from their own studio or location of choice.

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 15, 2021.

## **INFORMATION SESSIONS and ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS**

Textile Center program staff will conduct VIRTUAL information sessions this fall via ZOOM, to go over the application process, both its content and technical aspects. Information about info sessions:

<https://textilecentermn.org/2021mcknightfiberartfellowships/#1567702554214-f353d3f3-6a8c>

**Info Session #1—Tuesday, September 22, 5:30 pm via ZOOM. Link to session posted at:**

<https://textilecentermn.org/2021mcknightfiberartfellowships/>

A recording will be available of this info session by October 1, online at the link above.

**Other info sessions to be announced on our website and through our bi-weekly Enews, *Textiles on the Town*.**

To schedule a one on one meeting to discuss your application, please read all of the information in this document and on our website, and attend a ZOOM session or watch the pre-recorded session. After this, you may schedule a meeting by calling 612-436-0464 to set an appointment with Tracy Krumm. Limited appointments are available.

If you need assistance writing a statement or preparing a resume or images, please see this attached list for resources for assistance:

<https://textilecentermn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/McKnight-Additional-Artist-Resources.pdf>

We recommend contacting Springboard for the Arts for in-depth assistance with either paid consultations or their free workshops:

<https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/career-consultations/artist-career-consultants/>

<https://springboardforthearts.org/workshops/#:~:text=Springboard's%20Work%20of%20Art%3A%20Business,and%20replicated%20across%20the%20country>

Textile Center staff are unable to assist you with the actual writing and preparation of your documents. Let us know if you would like us to try and find a volunteer to assist you. A video tutorial will be available on our website on how to upload your application.

*Please note: we will not be able to schedule one-on-one meetings after November 3, 2020. A final group Info session with Q&A will be available right before the application period closes. Check the website for details.*

## **QUESTIONS?**

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

Tracy Krumm  
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McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists Program Director  
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