



TEXTILE CENTER MCKNIGHT FELLOWSHIPS FOR FIBER ARTISTS

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The McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists program is funded by the McKnight Arts & Culture Program, and administered by Textile Center. For more complete information, please see: www.mcknight.org/programs/arts-culture/

McKnight Artist & Culture Bearer Fellowships Program Goal:

Catalyze the creativity, power, and leadership of Minnesota working artists and culture bearers.

McKnight's Arts & Culture Grantees do the Following:

- Support and advance the distinctive practices of Minnesota's working artists and culture bearers
- Enable unique developmental and leadership opportunities for artists and culture bearers
- Facilitate meaningful relationships between artists, culture bearers, and their communities
- Demonstrate a deep understanding of their field
- Work to eliminate deep and persistent social, economic, and racial barriers

The strategy of McKnight's Arts & Culture program is to fund organizations, programs, and projects that provide support structures for working artists and culture bearers to develop and share their work, and to lead in movements and communities. This includes artists and culture bearers working in a broad continuum of activities and approaches across disciplines and fields. Please see more about McKnight's program approach at: mcknight.org/programs/arts-culture/our-approach/

On The McKnight Foundation

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 and culture bearers representing diverse cultural perspectives and our organizations value diversity and equity, seeking to be inclusive and accessible to all applicants.

Established in 1981, the McKnight Artist & Culture Bearer Fellowships provide annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in 15 different creative disciplines. Program partner organizations administer the fellowships and structure them to respond to the unique challenges of different disciplines.

For information on all of the McKnight Artist & Culture Bearer Fellowships, please see their website: www.mcknight.org/programs/arts-culture/mcknight-artist-culture-bearer-fellowships/

On the Fellowships for Fiber Artists

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 and cultural merit, who have created a significant body of work over a period of at least 8 years, representing a sustained investigation and maturation of personal creativity and accomplishment in, 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, histories, traditions, and/or sensibilities in their artistic and creative practice throughout the conception, execution, and resolution of their work.

These awards are made for the body of work and documents that you submit during the application process. We are not asking you to make a proposal or prepare a budget for a future project.

Application period opens: Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 9 AM, CST

Deadline for applications: Friday, December 6, 2024, 5 PM, CST

Fellowship Period: March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026, with exhibition running into March 2026.

FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

- \$25,000 (unrestricted) fellowship funding. Fellowship support may be used for the enhancement of any aspect of the fiber artist or culture bearer's life, including but not limited to purchasing materials and equipment; studio and creativity assistance; collaborating with others; pursuing workshop, exhibition, or travel opportunities related to the creation of studio and creative work; and other living expenses. Awards are subject to state and federal income tax guidelines.
- Critiques/studio visits with experts and mentors from the creative field.
- Exhibition at the end of the fellowship period in the Joan Mondale Gallery at Textile Center, extending to the Mary Giles and Community Galleries, as necessary.
- Participation in a public discussion that features fellows and their work.
- Professional development support, such as attending conferences, workshops, marketing, or exhibition assistance for an exhibit during the fellowship period.
- Professional photography of artwork and installation at Textile Center.
- Presence on Textile Center's website, to include a portfolio of images, narrative about your work, and a virtual exhibition to accompany the physical exhibition at Textile Center.
- Textile Center membership for 2 years, with access to Textile Center's resources, including library, dye lab, and artisan shop opportunities.
- Professional support sessions from consultants at Springboard for the Arts.
- Opportunity to apply to McKnight Foundation's residency partnership with Artist Communities Alliance, following the fellowship year.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS for all Fellowships, per the McKnight Foundation:

- Must have Minnesota residency for at least 1 year prior to the application deadline (or since December 6, 2023).
- Must maintain Minnesota residency for the duration of the fellowship period, March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026.
 - 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.

- Awardees must have a Social Security Number or Tax ID (needed to process payments).
- Must be midcareer (or beyond), with a body of work that demonstrates a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence.
 - These fellowships are a recognition of the recipient’s significant body of work, creative achievement, and their sustained contribution to their artistic field and to Minnesota’s arts ecosystem.
- Applicants can only apply to one McKnight Artist Fellowship in ANY artistic discipline within a given fellowship year.
 - Applicants to this fellowship program will NOT be eligible to apply for any other 2025 McKnight Artist Fellowship.
 - 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
- Must not have been a recipient of a *McKnight Artist Fellowship* within any artistic discipline in the last 5 award years. (All 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 McKnight Fellows are ineligible.)
- Must demonstrate growth and ongoing artistry and creativity since their most recent McKnight Artist Fellowship, if they received one previously.
- Applicants must not be current staff, board, or immediate family of the McKnight Foundation, or McKnight’s fellowship administrative partner in the discipline for which you are applying.
 - Independent contractors and faculty are not considered staff and are therefore eligible to apply.
- Applicants must not be enrolled full-time in any academic program. (Low-Residency MFA programs and Ph.D. candidates who have completed all requirements except their dissertations are not considered “full-time” students.)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS for the *Fiber Artist Fellowships*, specifically:

- Must be midcareer (or beyond) with an extensive, independent body of creative work created over a period of at least 8 years—not including work done during a degree seeking academic program--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 art or cultural context, related to the field of fiber and textiles through materials, process, history, tradition, or sensibilities.
- Must demonstrate a high aesthetic level of ability, strong consistency of expression, and an established personal voice over the course of a sustained 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/creative form through exhibiting, teaching, preserving, advocacy, and/or other.

APPLICATION SYSTEM, INSTRUCTIONS, and REVIEW PROCESS

Application Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2024 at 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 December 6, 2024. 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.**

INSTRUCTIONS and GUIDELINES

- **DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME, EMAIL, WEBSITE, OR LOGO ON YOUR IMAGES, VIDEOS, STATEMENT, or DOCUMENT FILE NAMES.**
- **IF YOUR PROOF OF MINNESOTA RESIDENCE IS NOT CURRENT,** you will be notified and asked to submit additional information.
- **IF ANYTHING IN YOUR APPLICATION RENDERS IT INELIGIBLE, IT WILL BE REOPENED.** You will be notified by December 12 and given 48 hours to make corrections.
- **You may have a review of your application prior to submission, by Tracy Krumm, if you have questions.** Please schedule an appointment: tkrumm@textilecentermn.org.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Work Samples (Required)

Work samples are the most important aspect of the application, in terms of being selected for a finalist visit. The fellowships are ultimately awarded based on the work presented in the application and any subsequent presentations and interviews with the finalists. The work may include other processes and materials, but the dominant feature of the portfolio images needs to reflect sustained engagement in the field of fiber art and textiles.

WORK SAMPLES- PHOTOS:

- Upload 12 digital images of your work. Substitute video as desired, with one 30 second video replacing 3 jpg images. Save each image as a .jpg or save videos as .mpg or .mp4. Each image will be uploaded individually in one of these formats.
- Images may not include any identifying information. Please remove all names, logos, etc. from the material in the image and from the file name.
- Maximum file size for PHOTOS is 5 MB/image. Reduce file size when saving final JPGs, if necessary.
- Maximum file size for VIDEOS is 15 MB/30 second video. Please use 1080p to be sure your video image is clear and big enough for easy viewing by the jury.
- **CHECK YOUR IMAGES and VIDEOS so they are rotated right side up and ready for viewing!**
- Do not send thumbnail sized images or videos.
- Upload and organize your images in the order that you want the jurors to view them.
- **No composite images allowed**, which means do not include more than one photo per JPG.

- Images of installations of your work that include multiple works in one photo, are allowed, to help the jurors contextualize your work in relationship to other works. Please label these as “Installation” on your image list.
- **No text** can be included on the images or videos, unless it is part of the work.

WORK SAMPLES-VIDEO:

- You are welcome to submit a 30 SECOND video in place of any 3 images. You can do this up to 4 times, if you want to replace all 12 images with 4 video clips. One 30 second video = 3 images. No exceptions.
- To include video clips, VIDEO must be an appropriate format for documentation of the artwork itself. It can be a way to document fiber-art based performance works, engagement with fiber art based interactive work(s), or to show motion, movement, or activation of fiber art based works.
- Video cannot be documentation of your studio practice, and it cannot be used to pan past multiple static works in a space.
- If you have questions about the content, quality, or format of the video, please communicate with questions and samples to Tracy Krumm, tkrumm@textilecentermn.org.

Note: If your work is primarily informed by the histories and conventions of video or digital art as the basis for resolution of the work, please consider applying for the Media Artist Fellowship through FilmNorth. You can contact them about the parameters of their 2024 Fellowship Application process.

Important tips from our jurors over the past 5 years--

- Submit your best work and your best images from the last 6 – 10 years (suggested) with a focus on the past 2-3 years to show ACTIVE engagement and a current direction.
- Images should represent excellence and innovation in the field, and present a cohesive vision.
- Jurors have to assume your images are representing your work faithfully, so the nature of your work has to be conveyed through your images. At least one detail will help the jurors understand what they are looking at. An installation image can help contextualize multiple works at once.
- Portfolio work samples based in experimentation, sampling, or works in-process are not generally helpful as evidence of excellence or of a sustained practice.
- Your portfolio is the primary criteria for selection of finalists. If you are a finalist, you will have the opportunity to share more of your practice in a private presentation and conversation with the jurors.

In the application process, work sample uploads allow for the inclusion of written information (metadata) during the upload process for each image. Including this metadata with each photo helps the jurors facilitate a smooth review process.

Jurors will view these images on multiple, different computer screens and monitors, depending on what they have. Your images may include full views, alternative views (often helpful in understanding dimensional work), installation shots, details (often helpful in understanding what the jurors are seeing)—whatever it takes to convey the best presentation of excellence and depth in your practice.

Image List (Required- Attach as a PDF)

Prepare an image list corresponding to the order of your (up to) 12 uploaded images, or combination of video and images. *Limit to 2- 8 ½” x 11” formatted pages AND 2 MB in file size.*

- Your image list may not include any personal identifying information.

- Please remove all letterhead, names, logos, etc. from this document.
- DO NOT include any descriptive information on your image list, except for what is asked for BELOW, or your application will be rejected and you will be asked to do the list over.
- **We are allowing the inclusion of a thumbnail image or video still on the image list, for each work listed.** These cannot be larger than 1.5” in any direction, at 100% scale. The images must be in line with or adjacent to the written content for the image.

The following information is required on the list, for each image:

- Title
- Dimensions—Height x Width x Depth.
 - Words like Detail, Installation, Performance, etc. can be used instead of measurements
- Materials Used
- Techniques Used
- Year Completed
- **Thumbnail images are optional. Jurors have consistently commented in the past that these are extremely helpful as added references to the work.**

Statement of Work (Required- Attach as a PDF)

Please prepare a creative statement about you and your work, no longer than 750 words. Do not put this document on letterhead or include your name anywhere on it. Do not put any images in this document.

You may attach a 2-minute MPEG video, in .mpg or .mp4 format of you talking about your work, in place of a written statement. *You cannot include any background information or images of work in the video.* Please contact Tracy Krumm should you have any specific questions about this aspect of the application process.

There are no rules to writing this statement—but it is a chance to tell the jurors about you and your work. **This statement is NOT a project proposal. It is a statement about you and your work.**

- The statement needs to provide a context for the images that you have submitted, explain what you do, and importantly--why you do it.
- The statement can contain demographic and personal information if you wish, but jurors will look for how this is contextualized in the work they see and how this information relates to the rest of the statement.
- Your statement, whether written or verbal, may not include your name, logo, or any other identifying information.
- Your statement should address context, conceptual ideas, uniqueness of vision, and commitment to your work.

Suggestions to consider including in your statement:

- What about you personally (including demographic information) is relevant to why and how you make work?
- Why are you making this work? How is what you are writing referenced in the images?
- Considering the previous point, it could be helpful to actually reference at least one or two of your images in the statement to make a direct connection to the work being reviewed.
- How does your work make a compelling contribution to the field of fiber art?
- How is your work attentive to contemporary conversations and/or histories of art, fiber art, ideas, materials, and even other artists?

- What are you currently and actively doing now in your practice?
- What do you see as the future direction of your work and what is informing you as you move forward?

Résumé or List of Accomplishments (Required- Attach as a PDF)

Submit a current résumé or list of accomplishments **that highlights at least 8 years of artistic/creative accomplishments and achievements** including exhibitions (solo and group), events, presentations, lectures, residencies, publications, awards, grants, related projects/employment, and major collections.

- Other professional non-art activities are (typically) not helpful in this document. It has to be relevant to the accomplishments in and things that have informed your creative practice.
- Do not put this document on letterhead. Please redact your name from identifying bibliographic materials or websites.
- **No hyperlinks are allowed; however, websites can be documented—just remove hyperlinks.**
- If you are submitting a list of accomplishments, it is helpful to the jury to organize this list either categorically, chronologically, or both—with your latest achievements at the top of the list.
- This document cannot exceed five (5) pages.
- Include at least 8 YEARS of your most significant artistic and creative achievements and accomplishments—NOT including work done during a degree-seeking higher education program. ****This is the qualifying benchmark for eligibility for these fiber artist fellowships. This document is used initially by Tracy Krumm, McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists Program Director, to verify this qualifying requirement.**

Proof of MN Residency (Required- Attach as a PDF, JPG, or JPEG)

Applicant must have or maintain MN residency for at least one year prior to application deadline (since December 6, 2023). Applicants will have to upload a CURRENT document as proof, and two documents may be required if one of them expires during the required residency period. Documents can include items such as the following:

- MN Driver's License
- MN Identification Card
- Tribal Identification Card, indicating geographic location
- Copy of a lease or utility bill in the applicant's name, or any other similar document that contains your Minnesota place of residence. This format must include two (2) documents—one to mark the beginning of the residency requirement, and one to mark the end.
- Any other relevant supporting document.

Program Director will contact you if more information or an alternate format is needed.

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, writers, historians, and curators within the field of Fiber Art, with an appreciation for and knowledge of a diverse range of styles, genres, histories, and traditions within the discipline. Jurors, insofar as possible, represent a diversity of age, ethnicity, gender, and geography.

The McKnight Fiber Artist Fellowship jurors remain anonymous until after the selection process. This is to prevent applicants from having any intentional contact with the jurors before or during the 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 merit and integrity, and the content of the statement and resume will be considered during the initial selection process. (*Budgets and proposals are NOT part of this fellowship proposal.*)

Consideration is given for the portfolio and statement submitted, and accomplishments to date. **These fellowships are awarded for the body of work submitted, not a future proposed project or any perceived potential of the applicant.**

The jurors are asked to consider the breadth of artistic and cultural practices among Minnesota artists that include a wide range of histories, 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.

- The jury process is not recorded for public dissemination. In an effort to help all applicants strengthen future applications, jurors are asked to generate general comments to be shared with the entire applicant pool. Program director will notify all applicants to share general juror comments, March 31, 2025.
- Jurors will generate comments on semifinalist and finalist applications. These can be shared privately, on request, after March 31, 2025.

First Round Selection Process

- Jurors will independently review the images of work, image list, statement, and resume/list of accomplishments via *Submittable* from each application.
- Jurors will view each image and video individually at its full size (not as the small preview you see when you submit your application).
- Your images will be viewed in the order you submit them (i.e., Image 1 will be first, Image 12 will be last). Title, media, and other information you include while uploading the images will be available for juror viewing on the screen in the metadata, with each image.
- Jurors will each choose their eight highest applications to advance to the second round.
- Crossover of all applicants are tallied, and this limited pool of applicants will move forward to additional rounds of review.
- Jurors are not given the names of applicants in the first round.

Second, Third, and Additional Rounds of the Selection Process

- Jurors will re-review all images and artist statements prior to meeting.
- During a group meeting, discussion of applications that have advanced will be followed by subsequent rounds of review and voting for as long as it takes, until four (4) finalists are selected for virtual studio visits.
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Finalists

- Four (4) finalists will be notified by late January, 2025, and scheduled for a final review with the jurors in late February. The exact timeline of this is dependent on Juror’s schedules.
- These studio visits will be virtual 30-minute studio visits via ZOOM, with the jurors.
- Textile Center will host the ZOOM sessions. Each finalist will be responsible for preparing their own presentation for the jurors, and will respond to juror questions, from their own studio or location of choice.
- Program Director will spend up to three consultation and review sessions with each finalist to be sure they are fully prepared to participate in the juror visits.

- Textile Center will provide equipment or space as necessary, to conduct the sessions successfully for each finalist, should they lack proper computer, microphone, camera and internet connection to fully participate.
- A McKnight Program Officer or other Program Director may or may not sit in on the sessions, muted and off camera.

During the final stage of selecting the two (2) fellowship recipients, jurors consider the visits, presentations of work, and conversations with finalists, along with previously submitted application materials.

Upon completion of the final visits and deliberation, the Program Director will call the two (2) fellowship recipients, once the selections have been shared with the McKnight Foundation. The other finalists will receive an email of the decision. Please note, deliberation can include an overnight or extended time period.

All finalists are welcome to a review with Tracy Krumm, Program Director about the nature of the conversation and comments specific to their work.

INFORMATION SESSIONS and ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Textile Center program staff will conduct VIRTUAL information sessions via ZOOM, and IN-PERSON SESSIONS at Textile Center and partner sites to go over the application process, to discuss both content and technical aspects. Please attend an info session so you understand the parameters of the program, before you schedule an individual appointment with Tracy. Information about info sessions can be found under the *INFO SESSION* tab on our McKnight 2025 Fellowships page.

Scheduled sessions:

- ZOOM SESSION, Wednesday, October 2, 5:30 - 6:30 pm; Register for Zoom link [HERE](#)
- IN-PERSON SESSION at Textile Center, Wednesday, October 16, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, please RSVP to tkrumm@textilecentermn.org
- ZOOM SESSION, Tuesday, November 12, 5:30 - 6:30 pm; Register for Zoom link [HERE](#)
- FINAL Q&A SESSION, Thursday, November 30, 5:30 - 6:30 pm; Register for Zoom link [HERE](#)
- A pre-recorded session is available beginning October 7 on the *INFO SESSION* tab on our McKnight Fellowships page: textilecentermn.org/mcknight/

Additional info sessions in GREATER MINNESOTA will be announced on our [website](#) and through our bi-weekly e-newsletter, *Textiles on the Town*.

SCHEDULING A ONE-ON-ONE MEETING

Please read all of the information in this document and on our website, and attend an IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL INFO session or watch the pre-recorded session. After this, you may schedule a meeting by calling 612-436-0464 or emailing tkrumm@textilecentermn.org to set an appointment with Tracy Krumm. Appointments are available through November 27, 2024.

If you need assistance preparing images, finding a computer to use, or other help, please see this linked list for additional resources: [McKnight Additional Artist Resources](#)

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

Springboard Consultations:

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

Springboard's free or minimal charge workshops:

<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 of your documents. Let us know if you would like us to try and find a volunteer to assist you. We can however, review your materials, provide feedback, and help you upload your application.

QUESTIONS?

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

Tracy Krumm, Director for Artistic Advancement
Program Director, McKnight Fellowships for Fiber Artists
Textile Center
tkrumm@textilecentermn.org
612-436-0464