

OPENWORK

First Call: Openwork Portfolio Database

Seeking Artists' Portfolios: **DEADLINE Monday May 26, 11:59 PM EST**

We are seeking portfolio submissions from artists working with innovative approaches that recontextualize traditional craft practices and ways of making. Please review our timeline and definitions on tlaf.ca/openwork.

Submissions will be juried for eligibility.

These portfolio submissions will form a database that curators can use in developing exhibition proposals for our second call.

Select images will be chosen by the jury for inclusion in our Handbook for Independent Curators (a public resource TLAF Collective will put together for emerging curators, read more about it here: tlaf.ca/openwork). In this case, artists will be contacted for their permission and will be paid a CARFAC copyright fee (\$50).

Submission checklist:

- 1. Portfolio PDF:
 - 1.1. name and contact info
 - 1.2. website and social media links
 - 1.3. artist bio (200 words or less)
 - 1.4. 3-5 artist statement bullet points (total of 200 words or less)
 - 1.5. 10 career highlights in cv format
 - 1.6. 10-15 images with descriptions, and video links if applicable.
- 2. 4 Hi-Resolution JPEGs (duplicates of 4 images already included in the Portfolio PDF).
- 3. Submission Form: Filled, signed and dated. [Artist Submission Form](#)

Submission Guidelines

How to Submit:

→Submit all files and documents here:

[Google File Upload Link](#)

(If, and only if, you are having trouble with this option, please email your submission with all files as attachments to thelostandfoundto [at] g m a i l [dot] com. Use Subject Line: "Openwork Portfolio Submission".)

Contact us at thelostandfoundto [at] g m a i l [dot] com with any questions. TLAF Collective will not be previewing or offering feedback on applications.

What to Submit:

1. **Portfolio PDF:** Use file naming convention: lastname_firstname_openwork2025artist_portfolio.pdf. Maximum file size must be under 10 MB for uploading. Include the following:
 - 1.1. Your name and preferred contact info. This will be used by The Lost & Found TO and prospective curators to contact you if they'd like to work with you in developing their exhibition proposal.
 - 1.2. Provide working links to your social media and website.
 - 1.3. Provide an artist bio written in 3rd person. 200 words or less.
 - 1.4. In lieu of a traditional generalized artist statement, please describe your artistic practice in 3-5 bullet points (each bullet point should be under 60 words, but can include more than one sentence). Avoid statements that begin "I'm interested in" or phrases that include "I'm inspired by". Total of 200 words or less.
 - 1.5. In lieu of a full CV, please list your education and up to 10 recent career highlights in CV format (can include exhibitions and other public presentations of your work, awards, artist talks, residencies, public commissions, reviews and articles about you, your published writing).
 - 1.6. 10-15 images and/or video stills. Include: title, date, year, materials, dimensions, photo credit, description (optional). For time-based works/video documentation include a video still, title, date, year, etc. and a link to youtube, instagram reel, or

vimeo if applicable. For video links, include preferred viewing range if applicable, maximum 2 min.

Descriptions are optional, include 50 words or less for a basic description. You may include an additional 60 words for each work (not each image) describing scope, ideas and rationale if, and only if, the work is complex and includes multiple components.

Please note: We won't disqualify based on word count, but please keep your submission under word count as much as possible.

2. **4 hi-resolution JPEGs:** Provide high resolution duplicates of four (4) of your best images already included in your PDF submission. JPEG (300 dpi) file type. Maximum file size of 2 MB each. Use file naming convention: lastname_firstname_openwork2025artist_01.jpg

→ In addition to becoming part of our database, these duplicate images will be considered individually by our jury for paid placement in the Handbook for Independent Curators, and published with the artist's permission. From all the images submitted we will choose 3-5. If one of your images is selected, a \$50 CAD CARFAC copyright fee (+HST is applicable) will be paid to you for the inclusion of your image. More information on the handbook can be found here: tlaf.ca/openwork

3. **Signed Submission Form:** The form is linked here: [Artist Submission Form](#)
Use file naming convention: lastname_firstname_openwork2025artist_form.pdf

Eligibility:

Eligible Artists:

- Professional artists and recent graduates.
- Artists working in experimental craft as defined below. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about our definition.
- Artists at all career levels are encouraged to apply.
- Out-of-province applicants are welcome.
- International applicants are welcome.

Ineligible Artists:

- Students who will be enrolled in postsecondary programs in the 2025-2026 school year are not eligible to apply.
- Students graduating after December 31, 2025 are not eligible to apply.

We encourage submissions from underrepresented artists, and those who identify with the following Ontario Arts Council [Priority Groups](#): Artists of Colour, Deaf Artists and Artists with Disabilities, Indigenous Artists, and New Generation Artists. We also encourage applications from artists who self-identify as 2SLGBTQIAP.

Openwork Definitions: Experimental Craft

We're looking for experimental, sculptural, & cross-disciplinary practices that engage with historically defined craft media and craft-based practices in innovative ways.

We define craft media as including but not limited to:

Clay/ceramics, textile/fibre, glass, woodworking, metalsmithing, papermaking, or any process/material associated historically with the decorative arts, utilitarian object making, and traditional cultural practices.

We are looking for artists who recontextualize traditional ways of making, engage with the historical legacies of these materials and techniques, and explore their contemporary relevance. We are looking for practices that seek to push boundaries and expand the field of contemporary craft.

Innovation and recontextualization can include:

Reactivation of traditional or Indigenous craft practices, community engagement, performance, combining craft materials and other media, cross-disciplinary or inter-arts artistic practices (e.g. textiles and dance), sculptural installations, video works, sound works, interactive works, non-traditional use of materials (e.g. raw clay as finished work) or non-traditional materials (e.g. textile woven from plastic waste), documentation of transient or ephemeral occurrences.

Please reach out to [thelostandfoundto \[at\] g m a i l \[dot\] com](mailto:thelostandfoundto[at]gmaill[dot]com) with any questions.

Openwork is generously funded by the Ontario Arts Council.

