



museum of arts and design

Artist Studios Program Application Guidelines

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About the Museum of Arts and Design

The mission of the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) is to collect, display, and interpret objects that document contemporary and historic innovation in craft, art, and design. In its exhibitions and educational programs, the Museum celebrates the creative process through which materials are crafted into works that enhance contemporary life.

MAD champions contemporary makers across creative fields, presenting artists, designers, and artisans who apply the highest level of ingenuity and skill to their work. Since the Museum’s founding in 1956 by philanthropist and visionary Aileen Osborn Webb, MAD has celebrated all facets of making and the creative processes by which materials are transformed, from traditional techniques to cutting-edge technologies. Today, the Museum’s curatorial program builds upon a rich history of exhibitions that emphasize a cross-disciplinary approach to art and design, and reveals the workmanship behind the objects and environments that shape our everyday lives. MAD provides an international platform for practitioners who are influencing the direction of cultural production and driving 21st-century innovation, fostering a participatory setting for visitors to have direct encounters with skilled making and compelling works of art and design.

About the Artist Studios Program

The Artist Studios Program at the Museum of Arts and Design hosts artists and designers daily in a live studio environment, serving as both a platform for creativity and an innovative model of engagement that has served 150 artists and designers to date. Within the “open studio” format, artists-in-residence welcome dialogue around concepts, materials, processes and context, providing an exciting chance for museumgoers to meet working artists while fostering a remarkable opportunity for residents to actively participate in the public’s engagement with their work.

During their residency, artists-in-residence receive access to the following:

- Opportunities to be featured in public programming at the Museum, including MADmakes drop-in workshops, a mid-residency talk and an end-of-residency showing and reception
- Access to a shared studio space, featuring a variety of tools and equipment
- Access to the Museum galleries, public programs, and exhibition openings
- Professional development opportunities, and continued engagement through the community of Artist Studios Program alumni

Successful candidates possess a mature body of work that reveals a mastery of craft processes and interdisciplinary approaches, and demonstrates developed concepts and themes. As New York City's only museum artist residency that is open to the public at all times, the Artist Studios Program is both a residency and a public program. Successful applicants will also display readiness to engage with and benefit from the "open studios" format unique to the Museum of Arts and Design, as addressed in the applicant's statement of purpose. Selection is conducted by a committee of twelve museum staff members and outside professionals in the fields of art, craft, and design.

The Artist Studios Daily Residency Program operates on a six-month cycle: February—July and August—January. Each artist-in-residence is assigned one day each week to work along with a selection of Thursday evenings, for which they receive a daily honorarium of \$125.

To better understand the Artist Studios Program, we highly recommend that potential applicants visit the Museum and speak directly to a current resident or fellow before applying.

Associated Programs and Events

Residents and fellows have access to a variety of programs, events, and professional development opportunities. All residents and fellows participate in a culminating talk and closing reception at the end of their residency/fellowship period. Residents and fellows can also elect to lead a workshop as part of MADmakes, a series of drop-in "meet and make" events. Additionally, in conjunction with exhibitions, featured artists may be invited into the Artist Studios to work alongside residents and fellows.

Professional development opportunities include artist-to-artist critiques, visits with curatorial and other Museum staff, and selected workshops on career enhancement. Residents and fellows are also invited to exhibition openings, performances, and cinema screenings.

Furthermore, residents and fellows benefit from MAD's robust Artist Studios Alumni network. The Museum hosts alumni several times a year, inviting them to meet and engage with the current residents and fellows. Residents and fellows also often elect to undertake visits to alumni's studios outside the Museum.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The Artist Studios Program focuses on providing opportunities for emerging to midcareer artists. We encourage artists and designers from a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and interests to apply. All applicants must be United States citizens or have permission to work in the United States.

Applicants should have a mature body of work that:

- Examines critical issues pertinent to the field of contemporary craft
- Reveals a mastery of techniques, methods, processes, and materials
- Demonstrates developed concepts and narratives

Proposals must:

- Address a clear direction/question for pursuit (be specific)
- Take into account the museum visitor experience and acknowledge how interaction with the public will affect the applicant's work (why engaging with the public will be beneficial)

Also, applicants should be aware of the limitations of the Artist Studios space before applying:

- No hazardous materials are allowed (turpentine, resins, liquid silicone, etc.)
- No open flame or lamp work allowed
- Use of electric tools is limited to a dremel, buffing tools, and drill press (The use of electric saws or blades is not allowed)

If you are interested in applying for the Artist Fellowship at MAD, there are additional criteria to be met. Applicants **MUST** (no exceptions):

- be 30 years or younger at the start of their fellowship;
- identify racially and/or culturally with a historically underrepresented community;
- demonstrate the need for financial assistance to advance their artistic careers; and
- be residents of New York City.

Application Process

All applications to the Artist Studios Program are to be submitted electronically. No written applications or original artwork will be accepted. Please follow this link to apply. **Because of the high volume of applications, no phone calls, please.**

February—July Session

Applications available: August

Applications due: October

Final selection made: November

August—January Session

Applications available: February

Applications due: April

Final selection made: May

Selection Process

Selection begins with two rounds of review conducted by the Artist Studios Selection Committee. This committee is made up of 8–12 Museum staff members and outside professionals in the fields of art, craft, and design. In the first round, all applications are reviewed by three committee members (selected at random). Applications that most strongly align with the criteria outlined above move forward into the second round. In the second round, applications are reviewed in a roundtable format with all committee members present. After the second round, 15–20 applicants are selected for an interview. Interviews are conducted with members of Museum staff.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply for both the residency and the fellowship?

Yes, but you will only be selected for one program. We interview first for the fellowship, then the residency. You will be considered in that order. Please note: If you are accepted into one program, you will not be eligible for the other.

Can alumni of the residency apply for the fellowship?

No. Alumni are not eligible for either program at this time.

Is there an application fee?

No.

What is the studio space like? How much space does each artist have?

The studios are located on the 6th floor. They are roughly 150–200 square feet. Each studio has a large worktable, a sink, and storage. Daily residents share one studio; fellows have a dedicated studio. Residents and fellows share equipment and often need to enter each other's space to borrow supplies, access the kiln, etc. Storage is limited for large work, so work that can be done in sections is preferred. Storage shelves are roughly 3 x 4 feet.

What tools and equipment will I have access to in the studio? Can I bring my own tools and equipment?

Each studio has a large worktable, sink, and storage. Residents and fellows share a kiln, an enamel kiln, a spray booth, a flex shaft Dremel, a drill press, a band saw, and a variety of smaller tools. We highly encourage artists to bring their own specialized tools.

Do you have an Internet connection?

Yes.

Do I have to be a US citizen to apply?

Artists must be citizens or legal residents of the US with a valid SSN or EIN. The Museum does not provide visas. Applicants must have their legal paperwork in order by the time they apply, no exceptions.

If I am part of a duo or collaborative group, can we apply?

Yes, but collaboratives receive the same daily stipend of \$125 (individuals are not paid separately). All members of the collaborative must be present for an interview.

How will my artwork be presented?

Residents and fellows have one to three examples of their work displayed on the 6th floor at all times. This work is locked in a vitrine. Artists are allowed to change out the work, but work must always be on display. To accompany work, a small label will identify the artists and information about their project at MAD (outlined in each applicant's proposal).

We also have a dedicated web page for our Artist Studios Program. Residents provide a head shot and up to six images of their work, along with a short bio and description of their work. Residents are featured in Museum e-blasts and on social media regularly.

Does the Museum pay for travel costs or provide housing stipends?

No.