



Art Matters is looking for Curators!

OPEN/OUVERT OCT 01-NOV 01

To apply visit artmattersfestival.org/html/submit.html

This document contains

- Curator FAQ
- An example of a Curator Application Form
- Other Questions from the Form
- Collaboration with Art Souterrain and Nuit Blanche.

Want to learn more about Art Matters or have some more questions about the Curator Call-out? Contact us at

info@artmattersfestival.org!

Curator FAQ

What is a curator?

Curators gather artworks to be presented together in a space. When pieces speak to each other, a curatorial vision can be achieved. Art Matters invites students to apply individually or in pairs as curators for its 2018 festival.

How are curators selected?

Curators will be selected based off of the strength of their application and the variety they offer the festival. Curators are selected by a jury composed of the festival coordinators, two members of its board of directors, and three members of the artistic community at large.

What do curators do?

- Curators have to be available to attend a curator workshop happening on December 1st and an artist selection jury happening on January 13th.
- Curators will work approximately **1-5 hours a week** during December and January. Tasks include artist selection and confirmation, attendance to gallery tour, writing and confirming texts for festival catalogue, etc.
- Curators will work up to **10-15 hours a week** during February and March since this is the time leading up to their exhibitions. Tasks include installation and demontage of their exhibition, technical coordination, etc.

What are curators provided?

- Curators are provided a space in Montreal and communication with the space's staff.
- Curators are provided technical support.
- Curators will receive an honorarium of \$50.00
- Curators will have an excellent learning experience.

Am I eligible to be a curator?

Applicants must be undergraduate students at Concordia University registered in at least one Fine Arts course during the 2017-18 year.

Applicants must be voting members of Art Matters. In other words, they cannot have opted-out of their Art Matters fee-levy.

Can I apply if I am only taking courses in the Winter semester?

YES, as long as you are taking a Fine Arts course during the 2017-18 year, you are eligible.

Can I apply to be an artist if I am a curator?

NO, curators cannot apply to the festival as artists. However, should you not be accepted as a curator, you will know before the artist call-out closes and you are welcome to apply.

Curator Application Form - Example

Applicant(s) information

Name: Jane Doe

Program(s) of Study: Studio Art

Year of Study: 3rd

Student ID: XXXXXXXXX

Email: example@example.com

Phone number: 514-XXX-XXX

Application

Please summarize your application in no more than 100 words.

I am proposing to curate a show broadly based on the theme of islands, in which I consider islands as both physical geographies and as places of imagination and metaphor. This show, simply titled Islands, will be part of my ongoing research into the nature of islands and the experience of travelling between states of connectedness and isolation. The exhibition will respond to this theme by gathering diverse works to form a meditation on life influenced by detachment and intimacy, qualities that are innate symptoms of island hood.

Applicant(s) background, Exhibition's information & Curatorial statement

Art Matters wants to get to know you. Tell us about your artistic background, interests, and why you see yourself as a curator, or yourselves as curatorial partners? (100-200 words per applicant)

Jane Doe is an artist and major in Studio Art. Her current drawing practice is focused on developing work in the genre of comics poetry, a hybrid form that uses images, words, and the structure and rhythm of a page to create comics in a poetic register. Lately, she is also interested in investigating drawing and storytelling as methods of research.

Jane has an interest in the book form as a versatile medium through which to share poetic interpretations of autobiographical experiences. Having come to live on the island of Montreal after being raised on an island in another part of the world, Jane has an interest in theorizing and reflecting upon the experience of island life, an engagement which stems from her practice of using autobiography in their art making. This exhibition will be a new iteration in an ongoing process of inquiry into the nature of islands, which Jane has undertaken during the past year.

Curator Application Form - Example

Please provide a description of the Art Matters exhibition you would like to organize. Include the types of art you would involve and the type of space you would like to use. (300-500 words)

In the exhibition, I am eager to include strong works which relate to the theme and deal with islands and/or island hood, however directly or allegorically. I am interested in all mediums and would like to curate a variety of pieces that form a cohesive discourse with one another. Simply put, I am interested in compelling work which relates to islands: work about being on an island, created on an island, inspired by an island (Montreal, for example). The focus will also be on work which is about manifestations of feelings or experiences which may be associated with islands, such as experiences of loneliness, being part of a closed community, etc.

I am open to both traditional and new medias, including sound, video, and computation, as well as ephemeral installations and performances. Given that my background in art is strongly influenced by DIY and diaristic practices, I am always partial to work which uses these strategies. However, I am also very interested in work that diverges from my own approaches, as I hope to curate a wide-ranging show. In general, I like honest narratives and fresh aesthetic approaches. The goal is to achieve a strong level of visual and thematic cohesion while exhibiting diverse media and artists.

As I would like the exhibition space to be reflective of the theme, I envision this being a fairly plinth-heavy show, (provided that the kinds of work submitted fit with this form, and there are enough plinths to go around). The plinth seems like a fairly neutral representation of an island form, while hopefully not being too on the nose. I am highly flexible in terms of the arrangement of our show as we will be adapting to the specific demands of the work which we include.

The selected applicants will have to write a curatorial statement. Please provide an example of a curatorial statement you might attach to your proposal if selected. (200 words)

Islands are isolated and intimate. They may be traps or escapes. They are bound with rituals of travel - with boats, bridges. They are destinations (one rarely detours through an island). They are resistant to change yet constantly changing (some shrink each year as they are swallowed by the sea). Montreal is an inland island; an island in disguise. This exhibition explores the idea of islands as physical and metaphorical spaces, examining experiences of isolation and intimacy, travel and transformation, connection and detachment through artistic meditation.

Curator Application Form - Other Questions

Some of the other questions that you will have the option to answer are:

****Art Matters recognizes and welcomes the unique contributions that individuals from marginalized and oppressed communities bring to our organization, and invites these individuals to apply. We encourage applicants to describe the unique contributions they, as individuals with diverse experiences, would bring to Art Matters. (optional, 100 words or less)***

****Are there any restrictions or concerns you foresee with your involvement in Art Matters 2018? (optional, 100 words or less)***

****Please attach any supporting documents (optional). Supporting documents might include documentation of previous curatorial experience, or a “mood board,” expressing your interests. (PDF format/ Naming example: NAME_SupportingDocument01)***

Curator Application Form - Other Questions

This year, we are also giving applicants the opportunity to curate one of the exhibitions for the Art Souterrain Festival or the Nuit Blanche exhibition.

ART SOUTERRAIN

This is the 10th edition of Art Souterrain festival. It will take place from March 3rd to March 25th 2018.

The theme for this edition is “Labor improbus”, which includes: the place of work in our society, the relationship between individuality and work, work leave, work conditions and work environment. For more info about the festival, please visit their website: www.artsouterrain.com

If you are interested in being the curator for the Art Matters collaboration with Art Souterrain, you will have to answer the following questions:

1. How does your exhibition proposal fit the theme of “Labor Improbus”? (100 words or less)
2. Do you consent to your exhibition happening at the VAV Gallery?

NUIT BLANCHE

This edition of Nuit Blanche will take place on March 3rd 2018. The theme for this edition is “(re)MIX”. Nuit Blanche welcomes exhibitions to construct fusions and combine elements, creating new artistic associations that will last for one night... or longer, if the chemistry is right! Participants are invited to use the Nuit as a “free zone” to form unexpected creative teams, and present daring fusions of different artistic genres giving birth to new hybrid formats, or to bring an original approach to linking works from different sources.

And of course, the mix idea yields remix – the opportunity to revisit an existing work, or an event staged over the course of the 14 previous editions of the Nuit blanche, in order to create a brand-new version; wilder, bigger, interpreted by new artists, etc. For more info visit: www.montrealenlumiere.com

If you are interested in being the curator for the Art Matters collaboration with Nuit Blanche, please answer the following questions:

3. How does your exhibition proposal fit the theme of “(re)MIX”? (100 words or less)
4. Do you consent to your exhibition happening for one night only?