

**New Art Center
Curatorial Opportunity Program 2012 – 2013**



NEW ART CENTER

Curatorial Opportunity Program (COP) Guidelines

Deadline: April 9, 2012

Intention

The New Art Center in Newton (NAC) is currently accepting proposals for exhibitions for 4 to 5 week exhibitions in the 2012-2013 exhibition cycle (September 2012 – May 2013) to be installed in the Main Gallery of the New Art Center in Newton. The Center has a 33-year tradition of using the Main Gallery for group exhibitions (two persons or more) curated by an exhibiting artist or independent curator. Since May 1991 we have continued this tradition through a public call for proposals.

Proposals

Proposed exhibitions must be group exhibitions. They can include works in a single medium or several mediums, from painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and video to installation art, performance art and sound art. The proposed exhibitions can be organized around medium or process; they can investigate social, cultural, historical, theoretical or political concepts; they can do both. Proposals must include one public presentation with an educational component (see 'proposed public presentations' under Criteria, below). Related performing arts programming such as poetry, spoken word, music and dance are also welcomed. In recent contemporary art discourse, the artist has been charged with thinking about the curatorial practice as integral to the framing and production of meaning and thus as crucial to their practice. As a result, curators may include their own work in the exhibition but it should not be the focus. In this way, the program uniquely supports the development and education of the artist as curator.

Gallery Space

The Gallery is the main hall of a former church, with 25-foot vaulted ceilings, substantial natural light, and 10' x 6' movable modular wall panels. The space is approximately 2,000 square feet (1,800 square feet of exhibition space and 200 square feet of storage), with an average width of 39 feet and length of 50+ feet. A visit to the gallery prior to application is advised and encouraged, if possible.

Support

For each exhibition, the NAC provides a curator's stipend to be applied to exhibition related expenses at the curator's discretion. The stipend is awarded after the opening reception. Curators and artists are welcome and encouraged to consult with the New Art Center to seek outside funding to enhance their exhibition presentation or invitation, or to provide for additional advertising. The NAC receives a 50% commission on all sales.

The NAC provides:

- a set budget for printing and postage of a postcard invitation
- a \$1,000 curator stipend to be applied to exhibition expenses
- press releases and contact sheets to press venues
- advertisements and extensive listings
- duplication of material for distribution at the exhibition
- gallery signage
- insurance up to \$150,000 of work on-site
- physical assistance in preparing the space
- an opening reception with refreshments
- refreshments at a Gallery Talk or public program

The NAC does not provide (or pay for):

- transportation of artworks to or from the site
- unusual installation construction

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Decision Criteria

The Center's decision to award a 2012 - 2013 exhibition opportunity to a particular proposal will be based on:

- **Quality of the work to be shown.**

Note - though submission of artists' resumes is required, artists who do not have substantial exhibition records will be considered.

- **Clarity, subtlety, and power of the underlying concept.**

We require exhibitions to have an articulate central idea, convincingly presented by the work shown. This idea must be expressed in a brief curator's statement of concept. This is required whether the central idea is simply strong aesthetic resonance between works in a single medium, or complex theoretical or academic dialogue presented across multiple media.

- **Proposed public presentations.**

The New Art Center is an educational institution and the Curatorial Opportunity Program is charged with helping to extend its educational mission into the gallery. Proposals are expected to include at least one educational component connected with the exhibition, whose goal is to place both their exhibition and their art practice and curatorial practice into the larger context of contemporary art for a general public. This can consist of a panel discussion, gallery talk, ongoing interactive presentations, activities geared toward engaging the NAC's daily student population or related presentations and/or performances in other mediums.

- **Capability of the curator to carry out the project.**

In addition to working with the Exhibitions Director on the exhibition design and installation, curators are also responsible for communicating with the artists. This includes assuring timely delivery of press materials, adherence to agreed-upon artwork delivery and pickup times, etc. The curator and artists are expected to work with the Exhibitions Director to assure all necessary tasks are accomplished [i.e. installation and removal of work; assistance with gallery sitting (see Additional Notes) and public programs.]

Eligibility

All artists are eligible regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, belief, national origin, sexual orientation or physical abilities. While artists and curators from the greater Boston area are encouraged to participate, there are no geographic restrictions. Please keep in mind that NAC does not pay for travel expenses.

We will not consider

Proposals for one-person exhibitions; proposals that include a general call to artists; proposals which do not include a statement of concept; proposals which need financial support from the Center beyond the usual stipend and service (see Support); proposals which are late or incomplete; proposals which are inappropriately scaled for the Main Gallery (see Gallery Space); or proposals which have highly unusual installation requirements.

Review of Applications

Applications are reviewed by a committee of professional artists, educators, museum and gallery personnel / staff, and NAC staff. The panel reviews the application and support materials for the quality of work, educational potential, and clarity. NAC staff may contact applicant's professional references and/or request to meet with finalists as part of the selection process. The review process may also include a phone interview or studio visit to view actual work.

Additional Notes

The NAC galleries are open on Saturdays 1-5pm while exhibitions are on view. Curators and artists of selected exhibitions will be asked to gallery sit for one weekend day during the run of the exhibit. This is, however, not a requirement and a curator's or artists' inability to gallery sit will have no effect on a submitted application.

Deadline and Dates

The in-our-hands (not postmarked) deadline for the receipt of proposals is April 9, 2012. There will be no extensions. COP awards will be announced to the recipients in June of 2012. If a SASE or packages with return postage is included, CDs will be mailed back by the end of June 2012. **No phone calls please.**

The New Art Center will determine the time slot for COP exhibitions. Lack of scheduling flexibility must be stated in the application.

The COP Guidelines, Application form, and Image List can be downloaded from www.newartcenter.org.

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Curatorial Opportunity Program (COP) Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
Email: _____

CHECKLIST

Please include 20 collated copies of the following information. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed! The Statement of Concept and Image List must be collated so that one copy of each Concept Statement is stapled to one copy of each Image List.

1) 20 copies of the Curator's Statement of Concept (1 - 3 pages total). The curator's statement must begin with a one-paragraph summary of the curatorial intention of the show and should address how each of the artist's work relates to the central concept.

2) 20 copies of the proposed Public Presentation(s) with Educational Component. At least one public presentation, whose goal is to contextualize the exhibition and the contemporary art practice and curatorial practice for the general public, must be proposed. More than one proposed public presentation is encouraged.

3) 20 copies of the Image List. We only are accepting Digital Submissions.

The Image List must be numbered in accordance with the image's numerical position on the CD.

You may create your own version of the Image List. The list must include (for each work):

- Artist's Name
- Image Number
- Title of work
- Date
- Medium
- Dimensions
- Specify either 'A' (for **actual** work to be exhibited) OR 'R' (for **representative** of work to be exhibited).

Inclusion of 'actual' slides is encouraged. Inclusion of only 'representative' slides may adversely affect the committee's decision. **Artists whose images have been submitted must have agreed to participate.**

4) IMAGES: Please note that submissions to the COP must be ALL digital.

- A maximum of 80 images will be reviewed, with a maximum of 12 images per artist.
- Please submit images on a CD labeled with the Curator's name and the Title of the proposed exhibit.
- This CD must be viewable on a MAC or PC.
- Images on CD should be labeled 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, etc. followed by the artist's last name. The numbered list must correlate exactly with the Image List. (*Please do not put different artist images in separate folders.*)
- Image format must be jpeg and should be 300 dpi with a max vertical size of 8 inches, or max horizontal size of 10 inches. Please note: image submissions will be projected, and will not be viewed close up from a computer screen. The image quality is very important for work to be projected well. Images should be oriented correctly. Please do not send images more than 300dpi.
- DVDs will be accepted only when it is impossible to present the work in slide or digital image form (ie: if the submitted work involves sound, moving images, performance.) Submit one copy of a video no longer than 5 minutes and cued to the desired spot.

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5) Resumes and references: Include one copy each of the resumes of the curator(s) and each of the participating artists. Curators must also submit contact information for 3 professional or academic references.

6) Please tell us how you heard about the New Art Center's COP call for proposals:

_____ Listing in _____ NAC Website
_____ Announcement by email _____ Other _____

Deliver or mail this form & completed application so they are received by April 9, 2012 to:

Curatorial Opportunity Program / New Art Center / 61 Washington Park / Newtonville, MA 02460

Questions? Please contact: Kathleen@newartcenter.org or call (617) 964-3424.