

SAAG

SOUTHERN ALBERTA ART GALLERY
MAANSIKSIIKAITSITAPIITSINIKSSIN
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Call for Submissions – *Currents and Visions: 50 Years of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery Maansiksikaitsitapiitsinikssin*

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery Maansiksikaitsitapiitsinikssin (the Gallery) is sending out a call to early-career artists for submissions to a four-part exhibition titled *Currents and Visions* (working title) occurring across 2026 that commemorates 50 years of the Gallery. Four early-career artists will be selected to engage in one of four two-person exhibitions across 2026, paired alongside one of four established artists who have previously exhibited at the Gallery. Each pairing will engage in a peer mentorship model of exhibition creation. This call is open to southern Alberta artists located in Treaty 7 Territory or those with a strong connection to Sikóóhkotok/Lethbridge and Treaty 7 Territory.

The Gallery is committed to equity in all aspects of its work and invites proposals from all interested parties. We thank all applicants for their time and professional interest in this call.

For more information, contact:

Adam Whitford

Associate Curator & Exhibitions Manager

Phone: 403-327-8770 ext 23

Email: awhitford@saag.ca

Submission Deadline: February 9, 2025

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery Maansiksikaitsitapiitsinikssin is located on traditional territories of the Siksikaitsitapii, or Blackfoot Confederacy. We honour and acknowledge the Siksikaitsitapi, who have cared for these lands since time immemorial. We recognize that Treaty 7 territory is also home to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, District 1, and many other Indigenous peoples.

MISSION

The Gallery fosters the work of contemporary artists who challenge boundaries. We encourage broad public engagement and promote awareness and exploration of artistic expression. Our work extends to local, national, and international communities.

BLACKFOOT NAME

Maansiksikaitsitapiitsinikssin: The new making of images, related to the telling of our Blackfoot peoples' stories.

Maansiksikaitsitapiitsinikssin describes contemporary art as the new process of making images and writings, related to the telling of ancient stories by Blackfoot people within Blackfoot territory: a continuation across time in the sharing of knowledge, culture, and history across southern Alberta.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Gallery opened its doors on January 12, 1976 as a grassroots initiative to build an art gallery in Lethbridge. However, an art gallery is not just a building. It is the result of years of collective efforts of artists, staff, volunteers, funders, supporters, and visitors. Beginning with the Gallery's place at the meeting of the Oldman and Saint Mary rivers, so too will pairings of artists come together to create something new.

In honoring the Gallery's history while looking towards the future, the Gallery is planning a four-part exhibition to take place across 2026. These exhibitions will be two-person shows that pair established, previous exhibiting artists at the Gallery with early-career artists of southern Alberta. The four established artists are: Germaine Koh, Micah Lexier, Rita McKeough, and Adrian Stimson. These pairings of artists will participate in regular peer mentorship meetings ahead of their exhibition together with the Gallery. Due to the Gallery's upcoming facility-wide renovation project, exhibitions will take place in the Gallery's temporary gallery space and may occur in off-site locations.

The peer mentorship aspect of the exhibition process is planned as a mutual and non-hierarchical learning opportunity for artists at different stages in their careers to learn from one another and develop an exhibition together. Regular paid meetings will be scheduled between the artist pairings.

Eligibility: Early career artists are defined as those who are in the early years of a committed professional art practice. Early career artists have been practicing for ten years or less and have five or less years of exhibitions. Early career artists are not age dependent. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact us.

SCHEDULE

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| February 9, 2025 | Deadline for submissions |
| March 17, 2025 | Four early career artists selected and notified |
| June 2025 | All artists meet in Lethbridge for initial site visit |
| August 2025 | First monthly peer mentorship meetings begin |
| January 24, 2026 | First two exhibitions open |
| August 8, 2026 | Third exhibition opens |
| November 7, 2026 | Fourth and final exhibition opens |

APPLICATION PROCESS

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submissions must be received no later than 11:59pm MST on **February 9, 2025**.

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE ADDRESSED TO

Adam Whitford, Associate Curator & Exhibitions Manager at applications@saag.ca using the subject line: **50th Exhibition Submission**

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please send requirements 1 – 4 as a single pdf file, and requirement 5 (images) as separate JPEG files (as small files or in a zip folder). No hard copies of these requirements will be accepted unless previously arranged. Submissions should be emailed. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. If you require accommodations for this application process and would like to submit the requirements in a different format, please let us know. Artists must submit the following for consideration:

1. Contact Cover Letter: Artist's mailing address, phone number, and email. Please also indicate your order of preference for working with the four established artists.
2. Artist Statement and/or Bio: 1 page maximum.
3. Curriculum Vitae: Detailing previous experience as an artist. Maximum 3 pages.
4. Image List: List that identifies visual documentation (below) with corresponding numbers and titles. Include: title, date, medium, size.
5. Visual Documentation: Sample images of previous artwork. Include a maximum of 10 images in JPEG format. Number and label each image to correspond to the image list.

Video and audio material may be submitted through links to Vimeo, Youtube, Dropbox, Google Drive, or other relevant online platforms.

SELECTION PROCESS

The four successful early career artists will be selected through a jury selection process by Gallery staff and the four established artists. Only the successful applicants will be contacted.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Artists who meet the following criteria will be considered for selection:

- Overall quality of submission.
- Meets requirements of early career artist and connection to Treaty 7 Territory.
- Availability to participate in ongoing meetings and meet the exhibition schedule.
- Complete submission requirements.

BUDGET

The Gallery will compensate artists following the CARFAC minimum recommended fee schedule for all relevant artist and professional fees. Each artist will also be monetarily supported for artwork production, artwork shipping, artist travel, accommodations, and per diem.

For more information, please contact:

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awhitford@saag.ca
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