

Call for Applications – *Cryptids on the Margin*

Kathy M. Austin in partnership with National accessArts Centre invites all curious creators to apply for *Cryptids on the Margin*, a two-day creative intensive to explore community resistance through creativity.

Intensive Information

A cryptid is an animal or creature that people believe is real but there is no solid proof or scientific evidence available to prove that it does actually exist

-Cryptidophilia

The scariest thing about Cryptids is that, like those who live in the margins of society, they may actually exist.

Cryptids on the Margin is a blind-led intensive that brings together creatives to investigate the radical power of experimental, collaborative, curiosity-based creativity. Led by Kathy M. Austin, participants will engage in a two-day intensive that centers the experiences of socially marginalized creatives.

Participants will attend two 5-hour sessions where Kathy M. Austin will lead them through a series of collaborative exercises, creative prompts, and experimental processes.

Work created during the intensive will be shown as part of a paid presentation opportunity afterwards.

Kathy M. Austin

Kathy M. Austin's visual art has been shown in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, British Columbia, Italy, and Dubai. Kathy danced in Iconic in Montreal in 2024, the Eau Claire show with Inside Out Theatre in 2022, and many other dance shows. She created a live show, Malocchio, with guest stars in 2021. As an artist at the National accessArts Centre, Kathy has recorded tracks, made a painting that inspired a dance film, and written audio description for her films. She has exhibited photographs in Edmonton, California, and Australia. Kathy, who is legally blind, strives to teach the public about the many facets of people on the margins through entertaining engagement. Kathy has published three books and numerous poems in Canada, the US, UK, India, and in translation in Argentina. She lives in Calgary with her husband, Tom.

This intensive welcomes applications from:

- Creators of any medium, including but not limited to dance, writing, art, music, film
- Open-minded people of all abilities, genders, races, sexualities, religions, etc (18+)
- Creators who are interested in working within a short time-frame
- Creators who are interested in collaboration and skill sharing



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E: info@accessarts.ca

P: 403.253.3174

F: 403.255.2234

-Priority will be given to artists working in Calgary and surrounding areas. Please note that out-of-town participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodations.

Submissions open August 1st 2025

Deadline to apply October 2nd 2025

Applicants contacted November 6th 2025

Intensive dates February 21st & February 28th 2026

Application Requirements

Submit your application via email to

submissions@accessarts.ca with the subject line

SUBMISSION: CRYPTIDS ON THE MARGIN

-Please submit written responses in a single PDF OR as an audio file

-Submit artwork or video files via WeTransfer

to submissions@accessarts.ca

-For guidance on how to submit using WeTransfer, please [click here](#)

In your application, please include the following:

1) Artist Bio (2-4 sentences)

-A brief description of who you are as an artist

2) Statement of Interest (4-8 sentences)

-2 paragraph long description of why you are interested in participating in the intensive. This could include what you hope to share or learn, experiences you've had that are relevant to the intensive theme, and/or how this intensive will benefit your practice.

3) One of the following:

WRITING

-Up to 5 pages of a writing sample, including a poem, short story, or creative nonfiction

DANCE

-Up to 3 minutes of a performance or dance sample

VIDEO

-Up to 3 minutes of a video sample

VISUAL ARTS

-Up to 10 images of artwork

MUSIC

-Up to 3 minutes of a song sample



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Please also include a list which outlines any important information such as titles, dimensions/length, mediums, publishing/performance details, and brief descriptions (if desired).

If you have any questions, please reach out to submissions@accessarts.ca