



Open Call for Texas Artists

Application Period February 15 - March 31, 2018

Review Period April 1 - May 31, 2018

Studio Visits June-August 2018

About

Blue Star Contemporary is pleased to offer this open call opportunity to Texas residents. Artists are invited to submit a portfolio of their work and be considered for future exhibition opportunities. Exhibitions in development draw from the top 20 highest rated artists. Additionally, new exhibition concepts arise from trends and themes that surface through the open call. Please note being rated in the top 20 does not guarantee an exhibition.

Portfolios should include recent work, made within the last five years, that accurately represents the current state of your practice. Your portfolio should give us an understanding of visual and conceptual themes, and your voice as an artist. Please note this is not an exhibition proposal. We are interested in developing exhibitions collaboratively with you, the artist, that are appropriate for our context and audience. We are not looking for something "boxed and ready to go."

Eligibility

Candidates must

- Have at least 5 years of relevant experience and/or specialized arts training, such as a degree or certificate.
- Demonstrate a clear investment of time and resources into their artistic practice
- Have professional portfolios that include publicly displayed and possibly published works.
- Not have had a solo exhibition at Blue Star Contemporary within the last five years.
- Not currently a student.
- Work demonstrates artistic excellence.

Where to apply

BSC Slideroom portal: <https://bluestarart.slideroom.com/#/Login>

How to apply

All applications must be submitted via Slideroom and include the attachments detailed below and a portfolio of work.

Attachments (uploaded PDF or word document)

- CV - includes exhibition record, education/training, professional experience, lectures, publications, etc. and website link.
- Artist Statement - Statement should discuss your practice in general and can give background into specific bodies of work (this is not a project proposal or exhibition proposal).

Media

- Provide 15-20 items.
- Allowed Media Types:
 - Images (up to 5MB each)
 - Video (up to 250MB each)
 - Audio (up to 30MB each)
 - Accompanying each media upload please include the title, medium, dimensions, and year the works was made in the provided fields. You may also include a description providing additional information about the piece.

Application Fee

All applicants pay a \$10 application fee to Slideroom. This is a fee to use Slideroom's services and not a fee collected by or distributed back to BSC.

Exhibition Support & Expectations for Selected Artists

BSC is a [W.A.G.E.](#) certified organization. We pay all exhibiting artists an honoraria based on our operating budget and W.A.G.E. guidelines. Artists participating in or leading public programs are also paid an honoraria. BSC covers two way shipping costs for all works exhibited. If an artist is requested onsite to complete an installation or invited for a public program BSC covers travel and accommodations and pays artists a per diem (some limitations apply). BSC is most often not commissioning projects or new work, we therefore do not offer financial support in the form of materials stipends for the production of work. We do not cover packing expenses, framing, studios assistants, etc. Installations are completed by our full-time staff gallery technician and contracted crew. Artists on site for installation are provided assistants. Displays, vitrines, pedestals, miscellaneous hardware, and technology are most often provided or fabricated by BSC. We work with artists to evaluate their needs and offer as as much support as possible within our capacity. Artists send work ready to install with detailed instructions. When BSC commissions projects additional support is provided. We remain flexible and committed to our mission to support artists. BSC also provides professional documentation, promotion, assistance editing and fine tuning artist statements and biographies for exhibiting artist, fine art insurance for work while in transit and on view, and develops public programs, connecting our audiences more deeply with the work on view. This description serves to give artists an understanding of BSC's institutional capacity and is not a binding document or set in stone. Please find our FY18

(Oct 1, 2017 - Sept 30, 2018) artist fee rates below. These rates fluctuate each year with our operating budget. Detailed [definitions of categories](#) can be found on the W.A.G.E. website.

Solo Exhibition \$1,950 USD (percent of annual operating budget 0.20%)
Solo Project \$1,170 (.12%)
2 Person Exhibition \$975 (.10%)
Group Exhibition 3-5 Artists \$487.50 (.05%)
Group Exhibition 6+ Artists \$292.50 (.03%)
Traveling Exhibition 50% of standard full fee
Performance of Existing Work \$585 (.06%)
Performance/Commissioning of New Work \$1,170 (.12%)
Solo Screening \$195 (.02%)
Event w/multiple participants \$195 (.02%)
Artist Talk or Reading \$292.50 (.03%)
Lecture/Seminar/Workshop \$487.50 (.05%)
Existing text for publication \$.025/word
Commissioned text for publication \$.25/word
Day rate for performers \$20/hr

Open Call Engagement Rates

2014 Open Call (all regions, 9/1/2014 deadline)

- 385 applicants
- 2 group exhibitions: (17 artists total featured) [Everyday is Ordinary](#) and [Transmission](#)
- 2 solo exhibitions: Cynthia Gregory: [Of Reference, Of Departure, Of Origin](#) ; Emily Fleisher: [Stellar Scape](#)
- 1 two person exhibition; [Turn Your Face Toward the Sun](#) (Charlie Morris selected from call)
- 7 San Antonio and Austin studio visits

2015 National and International (11/30/15 deadline)

- 138 applicants
- 2 solo exhibitions John Steck Jr. : [Turning Memory](#) ; Kirsten Reynolds: [Splitsplice](#)
- 1 group exhibition 12 artists [Beneath Metropolis](#)

2016 Texas Call (3/31/16 deadline)

- 161 applicants
- [Augmented Reality](#) (3 of 6 artists selected from call; Susi Brister, Kris Pierce, and Randy Bolton)
- [Home Bodies](#) (3 of 9 artists selected from call; Ivonne Acero, Catherine Colangelo, Casey Arguelles Gregory)
- Two person exhibition [Origins, Rations, Extractions](#) (Gissette Padilla call applicant)

- 32 studio visits across Texas
- More forthcoming 2018/2019, to be announced

2017 National and International (5/31/17 deadline)

- 391 applicants
- In development as of 1/1/2018

*Additionally, Texas based artists introduced to BSC through open calls have been invited to participate in our Red Dot art sale fundraiser, to lead workshops and family day activities, selected for studio visits with collectors and visiting curators, and participate in other public programs.

Review Process

BSC's reviews applications through a multi round process, developed from considering accessibility to artists and reviewers, effectiveness in aiding BSC admin in managing applications, and by surveying peer organizations' open calls. The criteria and process itself are evaluated annually and we take into consideration artist and reviewer feedback. Reviewers include BSC curatorial staff and invited guest reviewers. Guest reviews are invited based on their visual arts knowledge and expertise, vary with each call, and have included artists, curators, collectors, gallerists, architects and other creative professionals.

In the first round work is evaluated for its visual engagement, defined as sparking interest, curiosity, and a desire to see more work. Only images are reviewed during this round.

In the second round work is evaluated for conceptual content. Reviewers consider if the content of the work provokes discussion and thought, if it's strong enough for a solo exhibition, if it demonstrates mastery over the medium and/or intentional execution, can they begin to decipher the ideas present in the work and what the artists intends it to communicate/express. Only images are reviewed during this round.

In the third round artist's statements, CVs and images are reviewed. Reviewers assess if the statement clearly communicate the artist's conceptual vision, if the ideas are the primary emphasis and materials secondary, if the artist's CV demonstrates an investment in their practice and career. Additionally, if the style, themes, subjects, process, etc. of the work are contemporary and relevant to the discourse of art and culture, and more broadly society.