

2022 OPEN CALL FOR RESIDENT ARTISTS AT TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

JURY REPORT

Torpedo Factory Art Center is managed by the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts,
a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural activities.

Lear more at alexandriava.gov/Arts or torpedofactor.org.

For media inquiries please contact newsroom@alexandriava.gov.

To request a reasonable accommodation, please send an email to
torpedofactory@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.4570, Virginia Relay 711.

July 1, 2022

BACKGROUND:

This new annual process demonstrates the City's commitment to the arts and maintaining the building as an Art Center with the highest quality artists at its heart

Torpedo Factory Art Center aims to be a 21st-century, leading arts institution with a broad and deep connection to Alexandria residents, visitors, and regional artists built on equity and high performance with a curated building of artists at its heart.

Scores of artist communities in converted industrial-type buildings have sprouted globally in the last 50 years; many modeled after Torpedo Factory Art Center. Best practices have evolved and adapted over time and the Art Center seeks to do the same.

One contemporary process includes regular re-jurying of Resident Artists, in an average of every 3–5 years. With the Art Center being founded in 1974, many artists have held studios for multiple decades without being reevaluated.

On December 14, 2021, Alexandria City Council approved and directed staff to implement the [Action Plan for Vibrancy & Sustainability at the Torpedo Factory Art Center](#) (Vibrancy Plan). The plan was based on a 2019 City-commissioned meta-analysis of 15 public and private reports. This included the 2016 KAPTIVATE report, commissioned by the Torpedo Factory Artist Association (TFAA), which called for a "Re-assessment of work and production in a jury system conducted by external expert evaluators" every few years (page 45).

The Vibrancy Plan, in Core Strategic Direction #1: Re-establish the Art Center Identity for a 21st Century Audience, Action item 2, calls to:

"Expand the artist studio program to better reflect contemporary best practices, diversity, and public interaction.

Outcome a. Design and implement an impeccable, credible, artist selection process to determine studio leases.

Grounded in best practices, selection is based on art quality, ability to work and interact with the public, working for greater good of Art Center/community, and diversity including media, place in career, and personal background."

All artists with a studio at the Art Center will be re-juried. Founding Artists (had studios in 1974) and their studio mates will not re-jury while the Founding Artist maintains their studio at the Art Center. The Founding Artists' studios will receive year-to-year leases. After a Founding Artist leaves the Art Center, all remaining studio mates will be required to apply in the next available re-jury to receive a three-year lease.

The studios at the Art Center were separated into three (3) groups - A, B, or C - based on the jury date of the artist in the studio who was juried the longest in the past. However, if any single group is clustered in one area of the Art Center, that group may be divided to ensure no section or floor is unduly burdened by the jury process. In 2022, this was not an issue. Accepted applicants will be offered a three (3) year lease and be re-juried every three (3) years. Studios are divided into groups as follows:

- Group A studios have no artists juried in 1974 and have an artist who was most recently juried between 1975 – 2003. Group A was re-juried this year.
- Group B studios have no artists most recently juried between 1974 – 2003 and have an artist most recently juried between 2004 – 2017. Group B shall be re-juried in 2023.
- Group C studios have no artists most recently juried between 1974 – 2017 and have an artist most recently juried between 2018 – 2021. Group C shall be re-juried in 2024.

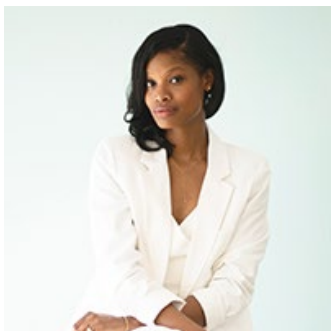
The 2022 Open Call for Resident Artists at Torpedo Factory Art Center was announced on February 14, 2022, the application went live on March 1, 2022, and applications were due April 19, 2022. Staff held three webinars with potential applicants, one exclusively for current Resident Artists (incumbents), on how to apply.

2022 JURORS:



ZOË CHARLTON, MFA, is a Professor of Art at American University in Washington, D.C., holds a seat on the Maryland State Arts Council, and is a board member at the Washington Project for the Arts in D.C. She received her MFA from the University of Texas at Austin. Her artwork has been included in national and international exhibitions including The Delaware Contemporary (DE), the Harvey B. Gantt Center (NC), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (AR), Studio Museum of Harlem (NY), Contemporary Art Museum (TX), the Zacheta National Gallery of Art (Poland), and Haas & Fischer Gallery (Switzerland). She is a recipient of a Pollock-Krasner grant (2012) and a Rubys grant (2014). Museum collections include The Phillips Collection (DC), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (AR), Birmingham Museum of Art (AL), and Studio Museum in Harlem (NY).

She's participated in a number of residencies, including Artpace Residency (TX), McColl Center for Art + Innovation (NC), Ucross Foundation (WY), the Skowhegan School of Painting (ME), and the Patterson Residency at the Creative Alliance (MD). Charlton co-founded 'sindikiti, a collaborative art initiative, with her colleague Tim Doud to engage their research interests in gender, sexuality, and race. Charlton is serving on an 8-member steering committee at the Baltimore Museum of Art to reimagine equitable and accountable structures and functions of cultural institutions within diverse local and regional communities.



JAYNELLE HAZARD, MFA, is the Executive Director and Curator of Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA), where she builds a critically engaged practice by introducing methods to advance scholarship; extend reach in interdisciplinary experimentation of contemporary art and ideas; and engage audiences of all backgrounds and identities. In previous roles, she has served as Director of Exhibitions at Workhouse Arts Center, supported various art programs such as the corporate contemporary art collection at UBS, and worked with Blank Projects, a contemporary art gallery in Cape Town, South Africa. Hazard holds a Bachelor of Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Arts from Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York. She currently serves as the Co-Chair for the Washington, DC Chapter of Sotheby's Institute of Art Alumni and on the

executive committee for the DC Chapter of ArtTable, Inc., a professional organization dedicated to advancing the leadership of women in the visual arts.



JACK RASMUSSEN, PH.D., is the Director and Curator of the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, Washington, D.C. Rasmussen earned his Bachelor's in Art from Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA, before moving to Washington, D.C., and completing an MFA in Painting, an MA in Arts Management, and an MA and Ph.D. in Anthropology at American University. He worked in the Education Department of the National Gallery of Art before becoming the Assistant Director of the Washington Project for the Arts when it opened in 1975. He then owned and operated the Jack Rasmussen Gallery, a vital part of D.C.'s art scene until he closed in 1983. From 1989 to 1992, Rasmussen helped conceive, launch, and operate the Rockville Arts Place in suburban Maryland (now VisArts). He then became executive director of the Maryland Art Place (MAP) in Baltimore, a

nonprofit contemporary arts center serving the Mid-Atlantic. In his 10 years at MAP, he curated a series of cutting-edge shows and off-site projects, introduced a new cabaret space, and heightened community involvement. Rasmussen's next post—before the Katzen—was executive director of the di Rosa Preserve: Art & Nature, a contemporary art museum and natural habitat in Napa, Calif. There, he oversaw the care and exhibition of 2,100 artworks indoors and out, and organized traveling exhibitions to establish the di Rosa's reputation and identity as the premiere venue for Northern California contemporary art. Rasmussen is president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums and is a member of the board of directors for the Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival.



JOHN RUPPERT, MFA, has been a Professor of Art at the University of Maryland, College Park since 1987 and has served as Department Chair for 13 years. He earned his MFA from the School for American Craftsmen at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York in 1977. Ruppert has been working in cast metals for more than 40 years and more recently included video, digital 3D printing, and digital composite photography in his process. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions in museums, sculpture parks, and galleries across the United States and abroad. His work has been on view in Grounds for Sculpture (NJ), Omi International Sculpture Park (NY), Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (NC), Kreeger Museum (DC), Katonah Art Museum (NY), Miami Sculpture Biennale (FL), Katzen Art Center (DC), and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Internationally, Ruppert has shown in China, Latvia, Finland, and Poland. He's held international residencies in Iceland, Italy, and France, and the Arctic Circle. His art has been reviewed in *Art in America*, *New Art Examiner*, *Washington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, *The New York Times*, *Art China*, and *Sculpture* magazine. He's been awarded five Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist grants, the Mary Sawyers Baker Award, and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award.

THE PROCESS:

The Art Center juries for studios; therefore, applications were accepted for individual artists who want a studio or groups of up to four (4) artists that wish to share a studio. Each application was scored as a single applicant, be it an individual application or a group application. The application is in three (3) phases and was worth a total of 100 points.

65% of an application's score was based on artwork. The remaining 35% of the application was scored on time honored professional artist presentation skills including artist statements, process statements, and artist talks, as well as the artists interest in engaging with the public and working within a community.

- **Phase I** considered artistic merit and was judged blind, with jurors only viewing the art. Jurors looked for deliberately crafted artwork with an authentic and original point of view that reflects an awareness of current trends and aesthetics in the larger art world. It was worth a maximum 50 points. Applicants needed 33 points to advance.
- **Phase II** was non-blind and considered applicants' backgrounds. Jurors looked for artists who could explain their art and who wanted to engage and interact with the public through their work. They reviewed applicants' career highlights and how they have marketed themselves or their work. It was worth a maximum of 25 points. Applicants needed a combined 50 points from Phases I and II to advance.
- **Phase III** gave the jurors an opportunity to meet and interact with the applicants. This was the first-time jurors saw their artwork in-person to review it for quality. Jurors consider the applicants' ability to communicate about their artwork, with an eye toward their desire to positively engage with the public. It was worth a maximum of 25 points. Presentations were open to the public.

The applicants that scored the highest were offered one of the limited studios available. If an application completed all three phases and scored a minimum of 70 points but did not score high enough to get a studio, they were offered an Artist Pro Tem position.

The application was based on industry best practices as they relate to current art spaces and artist communities. The application was developed after a series of four (4) Art Center artists forums (discussions with artists) and one (1) community forum held in 2018, as well as a survey with experts in the field and a survey of other arts institutions. The results and analysis of the forums and surveys were shared with Art Center artists. The Art Center is also a member of the [Artist Communities Alliance](#), which provided support in application development. Since 2018, and every year thereafter, the Art Center staff has administered applications for studio leases with outside expert jurors. Over that time, the application has been refined based on experience and feedback.



Ahmed Akari, *Disco to the GOGO*, Archival Inkjet Print, 36" x 45", 2021.

EQUITY / TRANSPARENCY:

EQUITY:

Torpedo Factory Art Center holds the notion of working toward a world where we are all embraced for who we are and are able to thrive to reach our highest potential. Removing barriers to full participation and belonging in life and culture. Equity means promoting just and fair inclusion throughout our city, and creating the conditions in which everyone can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

Torpedo Factory Art Center values a diverse community of artists that reflects representation from different social, economic, and cultural backgrounds, as well as different artistic media, styles, and forms of expression. Torpedo Factory Art Center values artists of all stages of their career, regardless of their formal arts training.

Therefore, when reviewing applicants' backgrounds in Phase II, jurors considered the career level of the applicant(s). Applicants' background should have matched their career level or exceeded their career level. The Art Center strived to eliminate potential barriers in this application, giving everyone an equitable chance to compete.

Jaqueline Tucker, the City's Race and Social Equity Officer was consulted while developing the process. [ALL Alexandria](#) was used as a starting point. Reasonable accommodations for disability, language translation, and free access to the application was offered. Additionally, in-person presentations were scheduled for a weeknight and weekend day to allow for easier participation. Video and zoom accommodations were offered to artists who could not attend in-person presentations. In the past, artists were selected and had to wait years for the possibility of getting a studio. This new process provides an equitable way of gaining a studio without the wait and provides opportunity for more artists.

The application asked for applicants' gender identity, disability status, language, ethnicity and/or race, and age. This information was not shared with the Jurors and held no bearing on scores.

Jurors were selected to reflect diversity. When marketing the application, special attention was given to universities, including HBCUs, organizations such as the Arts Administrators of Color, regional arts publications, and more. The application also offered helpful links including "practices for photographing your artwork," "resources for writing an artist statement," and "resources for writing an artist's resume or CV." Incumbent artists were also provided with a comprehensive list of local photographers who take photographs of artwork for digital slides. At the start of the lease, the studio will have publicly subsidized rent of \$16.88 per square foot per year - providing opportunity for more artists.

TRANSPARENCY:

Torpedo Factory Art Center is committed to a transparent application process. Art Center artists and community members were invited to participate in developing this process. Incumbent artists were given a copy of the juror's agreement with the City. All artists received the scoring criteria. Applicants and spectators were encouraged to attend the in-person application presentations in Phase III, where artists presented to jurors.

When requested, applicants received their scores, placement, and written feedback from the jurors.



June 18, 2022, artist in-person presentation to jurors and public

OUTCOME:

No studios were added or removed during this process. All studios will be granted to eligible artists.

78 artists applied in 63 applications.
26 artists in 22 applications: offered a studio.
34 artists: offered to be an Artist Pro Tem*.

LEASES BEGIN THIS FALL

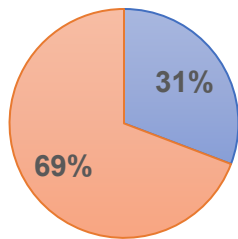
A waiting list was established based on scores.

It is expected that not all artists will accept the offers.

Incumbents are current Resident Artists.

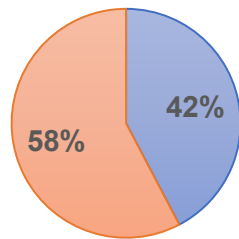
Non-Incumbents are new or did not have a studio.

ARTISTS APPLIED: 78



■ Incumbent: 24
■ Non-Incumbent: 54

ARTISTS OFFERED A STUDIO: 26



■ Incumbent: 11
■ Non-Incumbent: 15

INCUMBENT APPLICATIONS OUTCOME:

- Offered a studio: 8 (47%)
- Not offered a studio: 9 (53%)
- Total: 17

INCUMBENT ARTISTS OUTCOME:

- Offered a studio: 11 (48%)
- Not offered a studio: 13 (54%)
- Total: 24

APPLIED: APPLICATION TYPES:

- Solo: 52 (83%)
- Group: 11 (17%)
- Total: 63 applications

OFFERED A STUDIO: APPLICATION TYPES:

- Solo: 19 (86%)
- Group: 3 (14%)
- Total: 22

*[Artists Pro Tem](#) are eligible to sublease, be on the Art Center website, take part in Art Center programming and may obtain a studio should one become available (based on ranking). All incumbents not offered a studio were offered to be an Artist Pro Tem.

AFTER APPLICATION SURVEY

Taken by 80% of applicant artists

Scored **88%** on Ease of Application

Scored **83%** on Fairness & Transparency of Application

ARTISTS WITH A RELATIONSHIP TO THE ART CENTER (37% of response):

- Ease of Application: 79%
- Clarity of Instructions: 77%
- Fairness & Transparency of Application: 74%

ARTISTS THAT ARE NEW TO THE ART CENTER (63% of response):

- Ease of Application: 93%
- Clarity of Instructions: 91%
- Fairness & Transparency of Application: 88%

LOOKING DEEPER INTO EQUITY

APPLIED: APPLICANTS RACE / ETHNICITY:

- BIPOC: 32 (41%)
- White: 35 (45%)
- Did not disclose: 11 (14%)

OFFERED A STUDIO: RACE / ETHNICITY:

- BIPOC: 10 (38%)
- White: 13 (50%)
- Did not disclose: 3 (12%)

APPLIED: APPLICANTS GENDER:

- Man: 25 (32%)
- Woman: 48 (62%)
- Non-binary: 1 (1%)
- Did not disclose: 4 (5%)

APPLIED: APPLICANT IDENTIFIES AS LGBTQ+:

- No: 50 (64%)
- Yes: 13 (17%)
- Did not disclose: 15 (19%)

APPLIED: ART IS PRIMARY INCOME:

- No: 30 (38%) applied
- Yes: 41 (53%) applied
- Did not disclose: 7 (9%) applied



Yuting Chang, *Plycelain Collection: Mug*, Porcelain, 4.5" x 3.5" x 2.75", 2019-2020

OFFERED A STUDIO: APPLICANTS GENDER:

- Man: 10 (38%)
- Woman: 15 (58%)
- Non-binary: 0 (0%)
- Did not disclose: 1 (4%)

OFFERED A STUDIO: IDENTIFIES AS LGBTQ+:

- No: 15 (58%)
- Yes: 5 (19%)
- Did not disclose: 6 (23%)

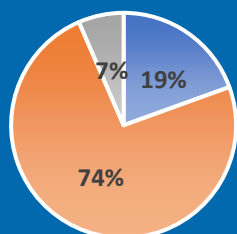
OFFERED A STUDIO: ART IS PRIMARY INCOME:

- No: 8 (31%)
- Yes: 16 (62%)
- Did not disclose: 2 (8%)

FINE ART / FINE CRAFT

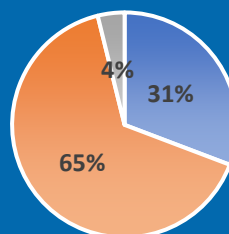
The first place applicant was a Fine Craft artist

APPLIED: APPLICANTS ART TYPE:



- Fine Craft: 15 (19%)
- Fine Arts: 57 (74%)
- Other/New Media: 5 (7%)

OFFERED A STUDIO: APPLICANTS ART TYPE:



- Fine Craft: 8 (31%)
- Fine Arts: 17 (65%)
- Other/New Media: 1 (4%)

AGE & CAREER LEVEL

APPLIED: APPLICANTS AGE:

- 21-49: 37 (47%)
- 50-80+: 30 (38%)
- Did not disclose: 11 (14%)

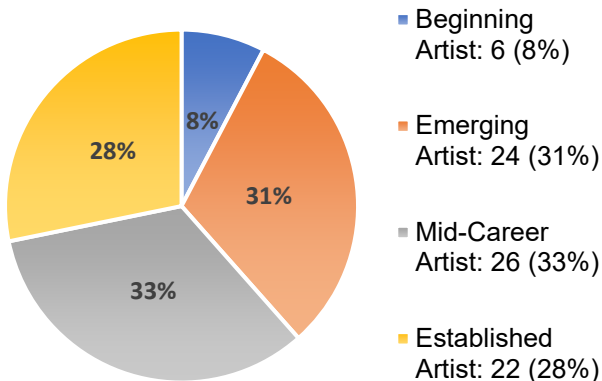
OFFERED A STUDIO: APPLICANTS AGE:

- 21-49: 12 (46%)
- 50-80+: 12 (46%)
- Did not disclose: 2 (8%)

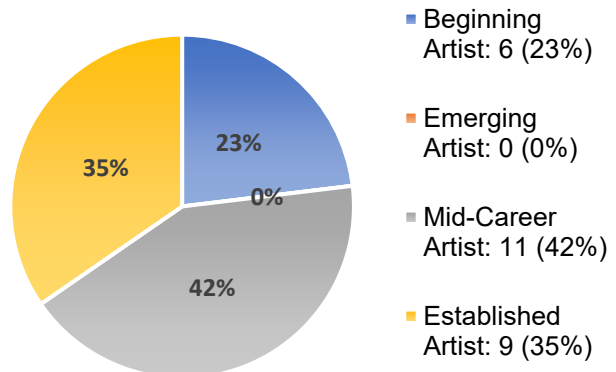


Anna Shakeeva, *Flying Ship*, oil on gesso box, 16" X 16", 2020

APPLIED: APPLICANTS CAREER LEVEL:



OFFERED A STUDIO: APPLICANTS CAREER LEVEL:



EXHIBITION OF SELECTED ARTISTS

Torpedo Factory Art Center created a partnership with [Principle Gallery](#) in Old Town Alexandria. All artists offered a studio or requested (and were accepted) to be an Artists Pro Tem as part of the 2022 Open Call will be invited to take part in an exhibition at Principle Gallery.



The exhibition will be on view August 5 - August 21, 2022, with a public reception on Friday, August 5, 6 - 8:30pm. Hosting the exhibition off site creates a more "outward looking" Art Center, as described in the [Vibrancy Plan](#), and broadens and deepens "the Arts Center's community connectivity" (pg. 2). It also offers artists the opportunity to exhibit in a premiere art gallery, strengthening their resume and connections.

OFFBOARDING:

Leases for incumbent artists not offered a studio will end on September 30, 2022, as scheduled. In addition to being offered the opportunity to be an [Artist Pro Tem](#), to honor their service at the Art Center the City has contracted a full-service arts economic and personal development firm, [Art Hero, LLC](#), to provide artists with a holistic advancement package, at no charge, to assist them in their transition. This year-long program is all virtual and will include:

- 3-4 one-on-one Executive Mindset Coaching sessions
- ABC Business Course 12 months of digital access covering
 - Administration: Finances + KPI's
 - Operations: Business Processes and Sales
 - Communications: Marketing Development, Mindset and more
- Ongoing monthly mini-trainings
- Community and Peer Support Group

The team behind Art Hero, LLC comes with 6 higher education degrees including a B.A. from Harvard, and a Ph.D. from Stanford and has helped launch initiatives such as Pixar and Facebook's Business Manager. Having generated worldwide recognition, and program success for individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and governments, Art Hero, LLC uses a modern sociological approach. This allows them to identify and meet clients where they are while providing them opportunities to advance through proven success paths and programs.

Additionally, the Art Center is developing a 4-part Professional Development series with [Latela Curatorial](#) for the Fall of 2022. The series will be free to artists and tentatively includes:

- Portfolio & Outreach Tips for Artists
- Responding and Applying to Art Calls
- Writing & Securing Grants
- Fine Art Printing and Photography Practices

Offering Professional Development to artists is part of the Vibrancy Plan, specifically Core Strategic Direction #1: Re-establish the Art Center Identity for a 21st Century Audience, action item 2 "Expand the artist studio program to better reflect contemporary best practices, diversity, and public interaction" with an outcome to "Offer artist professional and business development seminar(s) (open to all)."

Additionally, all artists are encouraged to apply again.



The Open Call for Resident Artists at Torpedo Factory Art Center will be held annually