

2023

OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS

RESIDENT ARTISTS & ARTISTS PRO TEM

JURY REPORT

July 18, 2023

Torpedo Factory Art Center is currently managed by the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural activities. Learn more at alexandriava.gov/Arts or torpedofactory.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.

BACKGROUND:

This 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 is keeping up with them, including the contemporary process of regular re-jurying of Resident Artists. With the Art Center being founded in 1974, many artists have held studios for multiple decades without being reevaluated.



Artist Anthony Nsofor in studio 324 (selected in the 2022 Open Call)

On December 14, 2021, Alexandria City Council approved and directed staff 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."

2022 launched the new Open Call process. All artists with a studio at the Art Center are being re-juried over a 3-year period in a process open to new applicants. 2023 was the second year. Founding Artists (had studios in 1974) and studio mates are not re-juried while the Founding Artist maintains their studio. The Founding Artists' studios receive year-to-year lease.

In 2022, 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 was 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. Accepted applicants are offered a three (3) year lease.

Studio Group A, studios having no artists juried in 1974 and having an artist who was most recently juried between 1975 – 2003, was re-juried in 2022. Studio Group B, studios have no artists most recently juried between 1974 – 2003 and have an artist most recently juried between 2004 – 2017, were re-juried this year.

Studio Group C, studios have no artists most recently juried between 1974 – 2017 and have an artist most recently juried between 2018 – 2021, shall have the option to re-jury in 2024 to maintain their studio.

The 2022 [Jury Report](#) and [Selected Artist Catalog](#) are available online.

2023 JURORS:



KERRY BROUGHER is the former Chief Curator of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., where he also served as Deputy Director and Interim Director. He is the Founding Director of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles and the former Director of the Museum of Modern Art Oxford in England; he was a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles during its formative years. Brougher has organized numerous exhibitions, including retrospectives and projects by artists such as Doug Aitken, Tacita Dean, Robert Irwin, Yves Klein, Wolfgang Laib, Maria Nordman, Ed Ruscha, Hiroshi Sugimoto, and Jeff Wall. He is known for his numerous thematic exhibitions, many focusing on film and media, and has received numerous awards for his shows and publications. Brougher was the Co-Artistic Director of the 5th Gwangju Biennale in South Korea and is Curator Emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



JAYNELLE HAZARD is the Executive Director and Curator of Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA). 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. Jaynelle 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, D.C. Chapter of Sotheby's Institute of Art Alumni and on the executive committee for the D.C. Chapter of ArtTable, Inc., a professional organization dedicated to advancing the leadership of women in the visual arts.



ARA KOH is an artist with adjunct professorships at American University, The George Washington University, and Maryland Institute College of Art. Born in Seoul, South Korea, she received her bachelor's of fine arts in Ceramics and Glass from Hongik University, Seoul, South Korea, and was an exchange student at California State University, Long Beach. Koh graduated with a master's of fine arts in Ceramic Art at New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. She received numerous awards including the Minister of Foreign Affairs Honor by the Korean government. Her works are collected by Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, Daekyo Culture Foundation, Winell Corporation in Korea, and many private collectors. She is a current fellow at Hamiltonian Artists in Washington D.C.



CHRISTINE NEPTUNE founded Neptune Fine Art in 2001 in NYC after nearly twenty years of professional experience working in auction houses, museums and fine art galleries in Manhattan. In 2011, she opened Gallery Neptune & Brown in Washington D.C. She has collaborated with established artists including Jennifer Bartlett, Vija Celmins, Wolf Kahn, James Siena, Adam Pendleton, Mickalene Thomas, and Jenny Holzer as well as many artists in the Washington DC region. She has placed editions in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Neptune also works with private collectors to handle discreet and confidential acquisition and sales for clients worldwide.

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 was 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. The top 60 applicants advanced to Phase II.
- **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. The top 50 applicants advanced to Phase III.
- **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 60 points but did not score high enough to get a studio, they were offered an Artist Pro Tem position (see asterisk on page 6).

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.

The 2023 Open Call for Artists at Torpedo Factory Art Center was announced on February 15, 2023, the application went live on March 1, 2023, and applications were due April 18, 2023. Staff held two webinars with potential applicants on how to apply. Additionally, the Office of the Arts offered eight free professional development webinars for artists in partnership with the [New York Foundation for the Arts](#) (NYFA). Seminars included topics such as writing and talking about your art, marketing, and more.



Pedro Ledesma III, *Mr. T.J. Dingle at Longstreet's Deli*, Archival Print, 2023

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. The Art Center values artists in 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 self-selected 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.

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. Applicants also could opt out of answering.

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." All artists were offered free professional development workshops (see page 4). At the start of the lease, the studio will have publicly subsidized rent of \$17.39 per square foot per year - providing opportunity for more artists.

TRANSPARENCY:

Torpedo Factory Art Center is committed to a transparent application process. Of the 2022 Open Call applicants – 83% rated the process as fair and transparent. The Art Center artists and community members were invited to participate in developing this process (see page 4). Incumbent artists were given a copy of the standard 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.



Phase III - June 14, 2023, artist in-person presentation to jurors and public

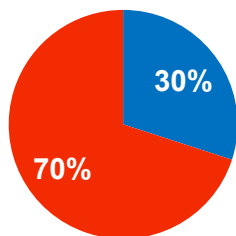
2023 OUTCOME:

27 studios were open for consideration. No studios were added or removed during this process. All studios are granted to eligible artists.

Incumbents are current Resident Artists.

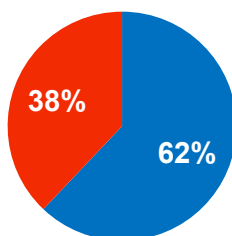
Non-Incumbents are new or did not have a studio.

ARTISTS APPLIED: 84



■ Incumbent: 24
■ Non-Incumbent: 56

ARTISTS OFFERED A STUDIO: 29



■ Incumbent: 18
■ Non-Incumbent: 11

INCUMBENT OUTCOME

2023 INCUMBENT APPLICATIONS OUTCOME:

- Offered a studio: 17
- Not offered a studio: 5
- Withdrew: 1
- Total: 23

2023 INCUMBENT ARTISTS OUTCOME:

- Offered a studio: 18
- Not offered a studio: 5
- Withdrew: 1
- Total: 24

84 artists applied in 80 applications

29 artists in 27 applications: offered a studio

20 artists: offered to be an Artist Pro Tem*

6 artists withdrew in 6 applications

LEASES BEGIN THIS FALL

An updated wait list was created based on scores

SOLO VS GROUP OUTCOME

2023 APPLIED APPLICATION TYPES:

- Solo: 76
- Group: 4
- Total: 80 applications

2023 OFFERED A STUDIO APPLICATION TYPES:

- Solo: 25
- Group: 2
- Total: 27

* To become an Artist Pro Tem, applicants had to pass all three phases and score a minimum of 60 out of 100 points. 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 incumbent applicants not offered a studio scored high enough to be offered a position as an Artist Pro Tem.

LOOKING DEEPER INTO EQUITY

RACE/ETHNICITY

APPLIED: APPLICANTS RACE / ETHNICITY:

- BIPOC: 30 or 36%
- White: 37 or 44%
- Did not disclose: 17 or 20%

OFFERED A STUDIO: RACE / ETHNICITY:

- BIPOC: 11 or 38%
- White: 10 or 34%
- Did not disclose: 8 or approx. 28%

GENDER

APPLIED: APPLICANTS GENDER:

- Man: 31 or 37%
- Woman: 47 or 56%
- Non-binary: 0 or 0%
- Did not disclose: 6 or 7%

OFFERED A STUDIO: APPLICANTS GENDER:

- Man: 8 or approx. 28%
- Woman: 16 or 55%
- Non-binary: 0 or 0%
- Did not disclose: 5 or 17%

LGBTQ+

APPLIED: APPLICANT IDENTIFIES AS LGBTQ+:

- No: 60 or 71%
- Yes: 9 or 11%
- Did not disclose: 15 or 18%

OFFERED A STUDIO: IDENTIFIES AS LGBTQ+:

- No: 20 or 69%
- Yes: 2 or 7%
- Did not disclose: 7 or 24%

PRIMARY INCOME

APPLIED: ART IS PRIMARY INCOME:

- No: 38 or 45%
- Yes: 38 or 45%
- Did not disclose: 8 or 10%

OFFERED A STUDIO: ART IS PRIMARY INCOME:

- No: 11 or 38%
- Yes: 15 or 52%
- Did not disclose: 3 or 10%

AFTER APPLICATION SURVEY

Taken by 74% applicant artists

Scored **88%** on Ease of Application

Scored **80%** on Fairness & Transparency of Application

ARTISTS WITH A RELATIONSHIP TO THE ARTIST PROGRAM (39% of response):

- Ease of Application: 91%
- Clarity of Instructions: 79%
- Fairness/Transparency of Application: 73%

ARTISTS THAT ARE NEW TO THE ARTIST PROGRAM (63% of response):

- Ease of Application: 87%
- Clarity of Instructions: 88%
- Fairness/Transparency of Application: 85%

AGE & CAREER LEVEL



AGE

APPLIED: APPLICANTS AGE:

- 21-49: 38 or 45%
- 50-80+: 38 or 45%
- Did not disclose: 8 or 10%

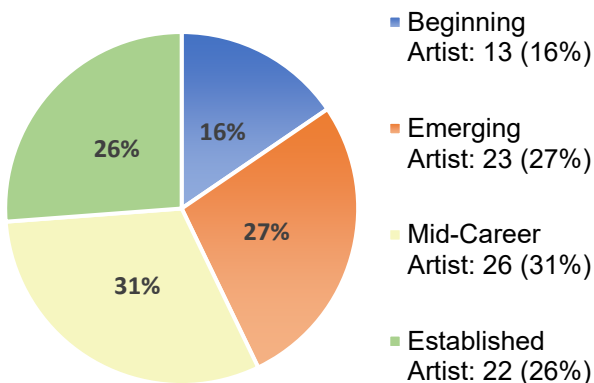
OFFERED A STUDIO: APPLICANTS AGE:

- 21-49: 11 or 38%
- 50-80+: 12 or 41%
- Did not disclose: 6 or 21%

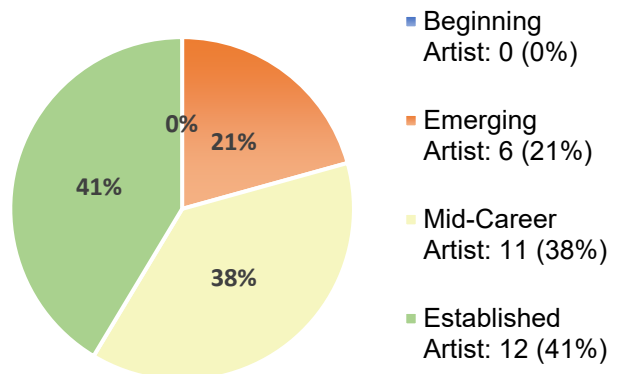
Image Left: Sermin Ciddi, *Old Town Alexandria in the Fall*-miniature map, Acrylic on Canvas, 2021

SELF-IDENTIFIED CAREER LEVEL

APPLIED: APPLICANTS CAREER LEVEL:



OFFERED A STUDIO: APPLICANTS CAREER LEVEL:



OFFBOARDING:

Leases for incumbent artists not offered a studio will end on September 30, 2023, as scheduled. In addition to being offered the opportunity to be an Artist Pro Tem (see page 6), to support vacating artists who went through the process, 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 elements such as:

- 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 Office of the Arts is committed to offering professional development opportunities and will continue its partnership with the [New York Foundation for the Arts](#) (NYFA) offering webinars to artists and organizations (see page 4).

Additionally, all artists are encouraged to apply again to further their position at the Art Center.

The Open Call for Artists at Torpedo Factory Art Center is held annually.



Marcel Artes Deolazo, *Asian Dissent: Cross Culture Chaos*, Ceramic Stoneware Vase, Cone 6 Oxidation Blue Underglaze on wheel Thrown Vase with clear matte glaze, 2023