



Texas Biennial Open Call Guidelines

General Information

The Texas Biennial is an independent survey of contemporary art in Texas, founded to provide an exhibition opportunity open to all artists living and working in the state. The sixth edition of the Texas Biennial will take place in the fall of 2017, with a series of exhibitions focused on relevant conversations from around Texas, and parallel programming at venues across the state.

Open Call Dates

February 21 - May 31, 2017

Curator

The Texas Biennial has worked with many different curators and taken many approaches to selecting artists from the open call. This iteration will be led by Mexico City-based, independent curator Leslie Moody Castro as the TX★17 Curator and Artistic Director. Moody Castro will make individual selections from works entered.

Eligibility

The Texas Biennial is open to all artists living and working in Texas. Artists attending Texas-based residency programs are eligible to apply, as long as the work was completed during the time spent in Texas. Artists living and working within 10 miles of a Texas border are also eligible to apply (Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Mexico). Artists will be selected on the basis of works entered. Works completed before 2015 should not be entered, and works shown more than twice in Texas since 2015 should not be entered.

You may enter work created in any media, with the understanding that the Texas Biennial exhibition venue and format may not be able to accommodate all work. In the case of work involving performance, installation, or some other element which may have not been physically realized at the time you apply, you must provide adequate written documentation describing the work. If you have a question about whether your work can be accommodated, please contact texasbiennial@bigmedium.org.

The Texas Biennial reserves the right to reject ineligible entries or entries that contain any form of hate speech or gratuitous violence, in its sole discretion.

Equipment

You should be prepared to provide all equipment necessary to present your art, although the Texas Biennial will work with you if possible to provide necessary equipment locally.

Authorship and Ownership

By entering a work, you represent that you are its author and that you either own the work or have the permission of the owner to enter it for consideration.

When To Enter

Applications will be accepted online at texasbiennial.org/opencall.html **February 21 through May 31, 2017**. There will be no extension or exception.

How To Enter

All entries must be completed using the online form. Please read these guidelines carefully before beginning your application. You may print these guidelines for future reference. You may also access these guidelines at any time during the application process via the “Guidelines” link at the top of the application.

Once you start the online application process, you can leave the application by either logging out or closing your browser. You can return to edit your application at any time before you complete your entry. Once you have completed your application, it is no longer accessible and cannot be edited. Do not click the “Apply” button until your application is complete and you are fully satisfied with its contents. Be sure to click the “Apply” when you have finalized your application. ***Applications not submitted by 11:59 pm CST on May 31, 2017 will not be reviewed.***

To begin the application process, you will be required to create a user account. There is a \$30 USD application fee for each entry. Application fees will not be refunded for entries deemed ineligible.

If you work both individually and collaboratively, you may enter both as an individual, and as part of your team(s). You may submit as many applications as you wish; however you must create a new user account for each application.

Uploading Your Information

Within the application, you will see two areas for uploading your information, “Artist Information” and “Artworks”. Below is detailed information for each section.

Artist Information

You may upload up to three (3) documents to provide background information such as a CV (not to exceed three pages) and/or an Artist Statement (not to exceed more than 500 words) and/or recent press. Acceptable formats are: .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt.

Artworks

Each entry can include up to seven (7) works, and each work may be represented by up to three (3) files. Files may include still images, video files, as well as written documentation. Acceptable file formats are: .jpg, .tiff, .gif, .mp3, .wav, .mp4, .avi, .mov, .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt

- Image resolution should be large enough for the curator to view the work clearly on a computer.
- Name image files accordingly: last name_image #
- URLs for videos hosted online or for web based works may be used *instead* of uploading files. Links must include http:// or https:// at the beginning of the URL.

Artwork Information

- Title
- Dimensions: Height, Width, Depth — Please use inches in decimal format. (Example: 20.25")
- Medium
- Year Completed

Applications in Spanish are welcome.

Notifications

Final notification of the curator's selections will be sent to all artists by **July 23, 2017**. Notifications will be sent to the email address entered in the application.

Selected Artists

If your work is selected for preliminary acceptance, you will be notified via email by **June 31, 2017**. All work may be subject to in-person curatorial review before acceptance is final.

Publication-Quality Documentation

In order to promote the exhibition in a timely fashion, publication-quality documentation of all work must be received by the Texas Biennial before acceptance is final and artist selections are announced. All documentation for work must be provided by the artist by **July 15, 2017**, in order to be considered for acceptance.

Loan Agreements

Artists will be required to complete a loan agreement, including specification of insurance value, before acceptance of a work is final.

Stipend

All artists selected from the Open Call will be awarded a stipend. A total of \$10,000 has been allocated for this purpose. Individual stipend amounts will depend on the number of artists selected, and the sum will be divided evenly.

Handling and Shipping of Work

Work accepted for the exhibition may be hand-delivered or shipped pre-paid to the exhibition venue; artists are also responsible for return shipping. The Texas Biennial does not pay shipping costs, but will work with

you to make the most cost-effective arrangements available. All work must be packed appropriately to ensure its safety during shipping and storage awaiting exhibition installation. The Texas Biennial will use the same or similar packing to prepare work for return shipping. The Texas Biennial is not responsible for damage due to improper packing or shipping.

Insurance

All work included in the exhibition will be insured by the Texas Biennial from acceptance of the work upon delivery to the exhibition venue, to the pickup of the work by the designated recipient or shipper.

Installation

Work must be received and ready to install by **September 12, 2017**. Unless other arrangements are made in advance, installation will be handled by the Texas Biennial. All installation will take place **September 13, 2017, through September 22, 2017**. Artists who will be completing site specific installations will need to work within this time line.

Reproductions and Publicity

By entering your work and providing images and other documentation, you agree that any images and other materials you provide may be reproduced and published in the Texas Biennial catalog and promotional and press materials and distributed via the websites and social media channels of Big Medium, the Texas Biennial and the project's partners. You also agree that images of your work may be reproduced in the context of the exhibition and its promotion by third parties such as journalists.

Sale of Work

All work included in the exhibition must have a value for insurance purposes. If you agree, your work will be considered available for purchase. The Texas Biennial will receive a 30% commission on works sold during the exhibition.

Questions?

We are happy to hear from you, but please read these guidelines carefully before contacting us with a question. Further information can be found on our [FAQ page](#). If you don't find your answer there, please direct questions to texasbiennial@bigmedium.org.

About Big Medium

Big Medium is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting and promoting contemporary art in Texas. Big Medium produces the East Austin Studio Tour, the West Austin Studio Tour, the Texas Biennial, and present innovative exhibitions throughout the year. Big Medium provides affordable studio space to artists, and partners with various organizations in Texas to help foster the arts and facilitate an inclusive cultural dialogue between artists and their communities.