



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: VANS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2013-2014

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 15th, 2013 by 5pm.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, the VANS Mentorship Program was created in response to the growing requests from visual artists in Nova Scotia for additional support beyond VANS' already successful workshop series, information sessions, panel and peer discussion forums and other programs. Basing its structure on similar pioneer programs such as MAWA (Mentoring Art Women Artists) in Winnipeg, CARFAC Saskatchewan's Visual Arts Mentorship Program and the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia's Mentorship Program, the VANS Mentorship Program joined the ranks of a handful of such programs Canada-wide.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The VANS Mentorship Program's mandate is to pair established artists with emerging artists (not necessarily young artists, but those at the beginning of their artistic careers) to take part in a ten-month long mentorship. The Mentorship Program assists visual artists to fine tune artistic practices through technical assistance, studio visits and discussion between mentors and apprentices. Over the course of the program, mentors and apprentices will meet one-on-one, at least once a month, and three times as a group.

The mentors may be asked to provide support in any one or more of the following areas: proposal development for exhibition in public galleries or artist-run centres, grant writing assistance, artist statement development, documentation of work, technical advice, skills development, critiques of work, research assistance, and thematic development of work, networking, budgeting, organizational tips, and creative brainstorming.

The VANS Mentorship program is tailored to meet individual artistic concerns, concepts, working methods and ambitions of emerging artists; shaped by the skills and experiences of mentors - its impact depends on each participants' enthusiasm and openness, and in particular their willingness to reflect on their own practice and engage in serious critical discussion about it.

By investing intensely in a few individuals each year, the VANS Mentorship Program contributes on a wider scale to the overall strength, sustainability and vibrancy of the visual arts community in Nova Scotia.

ELIGIBILITY

Apprentices are 19 years of age or older; a current resident of Nova Scotia, having lived in Nova Scotia for the past twelve consecutive months; and a member of Visual Arts Nova Scotia (artists may join at time of application).

Please note: individuals who are currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution are ineligible to participate in the program.

Mentors are professional artists with at least ten years working experience (extensive exhibition experience, familiarity and knowledge of grants, exhibitions, and curatorial resources, and familiarity with commercial galleries and other sales markets is an asset); they are recognized by

their peers as a mid-career or established artist as defined by the Canada Council for the Arts; they have exceptional experience with writing and receiving grants and/or experience as a juror; they demonstrate ability to communicate and educate through an informal, one-on-one, adult-based learning experience; they are living and working in Nova Scotia; and they are a member of Visual Arts Nova Scotia (artists may join at time of application).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Apprentices must submit a **.PDF** proposal to VANS which meets the following application requirements:

- a cover letter, indicating concisely who you are, that you meet the eligibility requirements, your overall interests in participating in the program, and a bulleted table of contents indicating that all application requirements have been met (1-page max);
- an application proposal that includes considered, succinct responses to the following questions:
 - The goal of the program is intended to support visual artists who maintain a studio practice and who seek additional career development or technical guidance to sustain their practices as visual artists. Please summarize your studio activity over the last twelve months, elaborating on the successes and challenges of sustaining your visual arts practice. (300 words max)
 - The program requires that apprentices make a focused commitment to their visual arts practice throughout the program. Describe the initiative you take and challenges you have (had) in prioritizing your practice, strategies implemented, as well as how you plan to achieve your goals in this program (300 words max)
 - The mentorship program is suited to emerging artists who have had experience outside of formal training, that are goal-oriented and dedicated to pursuing their professional practice. Elaborate on what you intend to work on and develop as an apprentice (e.g. exhibition applications, grant proposals, technical assistance etc.). (300 words max)
 - The success of this program relies on the openness and initiative of each participant. Please discuss any challenges you have had in taking initiative or communicating your art practice; how and if you overcame these challenges and how your experiences prepare you for mentorship. (300 words max)
- 10 JPG (500 kb max) images [or 10 minutes (max) of time-based media] of previously completed work, organized following [Canada Council for the Arts Do's and Don'ts for support material;](#)
- a corresponding numbered image list (01, 02..10,) describing in order, title, media, dimensions of work and year of production as per [Canada Council for the Arts Do's and Don'ts guidelines;](#)
- each numbered work on the image list must include its own short descriptive annotation;
- your artist statement (300 words max);
- your CV detailing your training/education, exhibitions, reviews, awards/grants and related experience with full contact information including phone number, email address and postal address (2-pages max);
- one or two letter(s) of reference from established artists and/or curators;
- the names and contact information of two additional references;
- if you want your submission returned, you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Mentors must submit a proposal to VANS which includes the following application requirements:

- a cover letter which outlines who you are, the reasons for wanting to participate in the program; highlighting the applicants specific eligibility to participate - professional and personal skills, experiences and qualities that the applicant will bring as a mentor to the program (coaching, communication skills, experience, etc.) - and a bulleted table of contents indicating that all application requirements have been met (1-page max) ;
- a CV detailing your training/education, exhibitions, grant awards and other related experience and information (3-pages max);
- 10 JPG (500 kb max) images [or 10 minutes (max) of time-based media] of previously completed work, submitted following [Canada Council for the Arts Do's and Don'ts for support material;](#)
- a corresponding image list describing number in order of attached support material, title, media, dimensions of work and year of production as per [Canada Council for the Arts Do's and Don'ts guidelines;](#)
- an artist statement (200 words max);
- names and contact information for three references (reference letters not required) ;
- If you want your submission returned, you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE).

Send either an electronic copy or hard copy of your Application Proposal, by July 15th, 2013 at 5pm, to:

VANS Mentorship Program
c/o Visual Arts Nova Scotia
1113 Marginal Road
Halifax, NS B3H 4P7
vans@visualarts.ns.ca

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection committee is comprised of practicing artists and art educators, including past participants of the Mentorship Program. The selection committee will review apprentice applications, check references and then select three successful apprentice applicants based on the merit of the proposal, the maturity of the apprentice and the ability of the applicant to complete the project. Applicants may be contacted for an interview.

The selection committee will match each apprentice with a senior artist that is best suited to their proposed area of focus and geographical location. If necessary the selection committee will solicit the participation of an eligible senior artist who matches a successful candidate's proposal and geographical location, but who may not have formally applied to act as a mentor.

NOTIFICATION OF THE RESULTS

Notification of results will take approximately one month, after the deadline. Submissions will be returned the same way they are received, provided that a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (S.A.S.E) is included. If a S.A.S.E is not included, the application will be discarded.

GENERAL INFORMATION

2013-14 Program Duration: September 2013 – June 2014.

Mentors will be paid an honorarium for their participation in the program.

Program Information Session: July 4, 7-9pm.

VANS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage, The Craig Foundation, the RBC Foundation's Emerging Artists Project, James MacSwain's Portia White Protégé award and the many individual donations to VANS Programming.

Please visit our website under Programs for further details on the Mentorship program or for more information on the organizations mandate, history, resources and programming, at
<http://www.visualarts.ns.ca>.

For additional inquiries, please contact:

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