MCKNIGHT

ART|ST

FELLOWSHIPS

2021 Application Guidelines

McKnight Fellowships for Book Artists

Administered by Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA)

Deadline: Monday, March 1, 2021 at noon (12:00PM CST)

Application Link: https://mnbookarts.submittable.com/submit

Table of Contents

I. Fellowship Timeline

December 1, 2020 – March 1, 2021

Application Cycle Open

Thursday, January 7, 2021 6PM-7PM CST

*Information Session via Zoom (to be posted on   MCBA's
website:*
https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/

Saturday, January 30, 2021 12PM-1PM CST

*Information Session via Zoom (to be posted on
MCBA's website:*
https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 6PM-7PM CST

*Information Session via Zoom (to be posted on
MCBA's website:*
https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/

Monday, March 1, 2021 12PM CST

Application cycle closes

March 2, 2021 - April 15, 2021

Jurors review all applications

Friday, April 16, 2021

*Applicants will be notified if they will be moving on to Round 2 as
a finalist or if their application has been declined this year.*

Saturday, May 1 & Sunday, May 2, 2021

*Studio visits with finalists.
*MCBA will help any finalists whose studio is outside of the Twin
Cities locate a space to present their work to the jury.*

Friday, May 7, 2021

*Finalists will be notified of application status.
Winners will be notified by phone call.*

Friday, June 4, 2021

Recipients announced to the public

August 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022

2021 Fellowship Period

MCBA SUPPORT

Applicants are welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (virtually or over the phone) with the Director of Exhibitions and Artist
Programs before submitting their applications online. Appointments may be made between December 1, 2020 and February 19, 2021.

For further information contact:
Torey Erin, Director of Exhibitions and Artist Programs:
612-215-2528 / terin@mnbookarts.org

II. Fellowship Overview

Founded on the belief that Minnesota thrives when its artists thrive, the McKnight Foundation's arts program is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country. Support for individual working Minnesota artists has been a cornerstone of the program since it began in 1981. The McKnight Artist Fellowships Program provides annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in 14 different creative disciplines. Program partner organizations administer the fellowships and structure them to respond to the unique challenges of different disciplines. Currently the foundation contributes about $1.7 million per year to its statewide fellowships. For more information, visit mcknight.org/artistfellowships.

The McKnight Fellowship for Book Artists supports the conviction that the arts cannot flourish or enhance community life without the ideas, energy, and drive of individual artists, and that artists cannot make these contributions without unfettered creative time.

The goal of the McKnight Fellowship for Book Artists program is to identify talented Minnesota based book artists whose work is of exceptional artistic merit and who are at a career stage that is beyond emerging. The fellowship program supports two established artists per year by providing significant financial assistance, creating opportunities to meet with local and national art professionals, organizing a panel featuring the fellows and invited critics, and working with the fellows to create an individualized professional development plan.

The MCBA-administered fellowship program utilizes an independent jury of three arts professionals to competitively award two fellowships. The fellowships run for one year, from **August 2021 – July 2022** and include:

- $25,000 (unrestricted) Fellowship funding to allow artists to set aside time for study, reflection, opportunities, new projects, experimentation, and exploration. Awards are subject to state and federal tax guidelines.
- Two studio visits with a selected art critic/curator/arts professional.
- $2,000 travel stipend to attend a book arts conference such as CODEX, College Book Art Association (CBAA), New York Art Book Fair, etc.
- Opportunity to participate in a public panel discussion with selected national artist or critic in the field to develop a dialogue related to their art practice.
- $1000 to spend on a custom tutorial with an established artist/practitioner in the field.
- $750 to spend on documentation support (website development, photography, video)
- MCBA Artist Collective membership during fellowship year and year after fellowship, which grants unlimited access to MCBA's letterpress, papermaking, and bookbinding studios and equipment.
- Opportunity to attend an artist residency within two years of fellowship program.

III. Application Process

Jury Panel: A three-member panel consisting of experienced and well-respected arts professionals selects the McKnight Book Art Fellows. The jurors are curators, artists (within the book arts field), directors, art critics, and educators with an appreciation for and knowledge of diverse aesthetic perspectives and contemporary art practices. All panelists are from outside the state of Minnesota. Panelists, insofar as possible, will represent a diversity of ages, ethnicity, gender, and geography.
The McKnight Book Arts Fellowship panelists remain anonymous during the selection process. The names of the panelists are revealed once the fellowship recipients are announced.

Review Process: Applicants are evaluated and selected based on the quality of their work as evidenced in submitted materials, with most importance given to work samples. Consideration is given to accomplishments to date as well as promise for continued development and the impact the fellowship will have on the artist. The panel will also be asked to consider the breadth of artistic practices among Minnesota artists, which include a wide range of media, aesthetics, and traditions that might be influenced by ethnicity, gender, and geography.

First Round: The jury panel reviews submissions in the form of digital images viewed remotely on their own monitor for the first round. The jury panel will score each applicant numerically. In a conference call, the three panelists will discuss the top applicants to determine which applicants will move on to the next round. (Please note that juror monitors are not calibrated).
Applicants will be notified of application status on **Friday, April 16, 2021.**

Second Round: Those applicants receiving the greatest interest will be contacted to schedule studio visits by the jury panel.

Studio Visits for Finalists: The Artist Program Director will notify the artists identified for final review by **Friday, April 16, 2021.** Jurors will conduct studio visits between **Saturday, May 1 & Sunday, May 2, 2021**. The Director of Artist Programs will work with any finalist whose studio is outside the Twin Cities to make alternative arrangements to meet the jurors.

Notification: Upon completion of the studio visits, the Director of Artist Programs will contact the two fellowship recipients and email the other finalists of the juror's final decision by **Friday, May 7, 2021**.

MCBA staff who oversee the McKnight Fellowship program do not contribute to the decision-making process or the selection of the McKnight Book Arts Fellows. The role of the staff is to provide clarity for the review process and to ensure that the panel review and discussion proceed in accordance with the program's guidelines.

IV. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants who do not meet all of the following criteria and expectations will not be considered and should not apply.
The intent of this program is to recognize and support mid-career artists living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence. Artists who are eligible for this fellowships:

- Create work that falls within a book arts context. Book arts is a family of processes that includes but is not limited to letterpress printing, screen printing, intaglio, bookbinding, box-making, papermaking, or paper decoration. Book art, broadly defined, includes work that embodies narrative, instruction, reference, mapping, guides, documentation, and more. It is work that engages the viewer and propels the experience forward through narrative, sequencing, spatial elements, visual or verbal language, temporal, mechanical, aural, typographic, symbolic or material means. As an interdisciplinary art form, book arts may include other mediums such as photography, other forms of printmaking, installation, sculpture, and film.
- Are at least 18 years old and a resident of Minnesota, as determined by voting and/or payment of taxes in the state. Applicant must also have a street mailing address within Minnesota to be eligible to apply.
- Have lived in the state of Minnesota at minimum the twelve months prior to the application deadline and will live in Minnesota for the duration of the fellowship period.
- Be able to provide evidence of professional achievements, such as inclusion in regional or national museum and gallery exhibitions and receipt of other awards, grants, and fellowships.
- Have at least eight years of professional experience, preferably in group and/or solo shows. *Exhibitions undertaken as part of a degree-seeking program at an institution of higher learning will not be considered, i.e. senior or thesis exhibitions, juried student shows, etc.*
- Demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and excellence in their work.
- Be willing to participate in all aspects of the fellowship program, including meetings, studio visits by art critics, and a public panel with visiting critics.

Applicants may not:

- Submit works in which the only means of expression is theatre-based performance, ceramics, printmaking, fiber arts, film, or video (exclusively). Other McKnight Fellowships support artists working in these areas. For more information about McKnight Fellowships, visit: https://www.mcknight.org/programs/arts/the-mcknight-artist-fellowships/
- Be enrolled in a degree-seeking program, either part-time or full-time, at an institution of higher learning.
- Have received a McKnight Fellowship in any discipline less than five years ago (here defined as from the beginning of previous fellowship year to current application deadline). Anyone who received a fellowship in any discipline in or before **2016** is eligible to apply.
- Apply to more than one of the McKnight Fellowships programs in a given year. Doing so will disqualify applicants from consideration in any program in that fellowship year. For example, if you applied to the McKnight Printmaking Fellowship at Highpoint for the 2021 cycle, you will not be eligible to apply for the McKnight Fellowships for Book Arts at MCBA.
- Work as staff or board or be an immediate family member of staff or board of the McKnight Foundation.
- Work as staff or board, or be an immediate family member of staff or board at Minnesota Center for Book Arts.

Applying as a Collaborative Team

While McKnight Fellowships for Book Arts are traditionally awarded to individual artists, we recognize that there are many contemporary artists who work as collaborative teams. If you are applying as a collaborative, make sure each artist involved meets the eligibility requirements. The images you submit should be of work created by the collaborative, not by the artists individually. Please include one résumé for the collaborative, plus one résumé for each of its members, in a single multi-page document. Do not use your names, rather, distinguish between the résumés by using generic titles, such as, "Artists A and B," "Artist A," and "Artist B."

V. Application Instructions

Application Deadline: Monday, March 1, 2021, Noon (12:00PM CST)
Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Organize your application materials. We strongly recommend that you assemble all of the application components in advance. Please keep your name off of all application materials (an artist signature on the work is acceptable).

Click this link to begin the application process. Please note that the link will only be active during the specified application period: **December 1, 2020 - March 1, 2021** at 12PM (noon) CST. *(https://mnbookarts.submittable.com/submit)*

Create an account for your online application with Submittable: On the MCBA Submittable page, which contains information about Submittable, click "submit" next to the McKnight Fellowship for Book Artists form. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to create a Submittable account or to log in if you already have an account. To create your account, you will need to provide your email address, a password, and your first and last names. Once you create your account, you will be directed to the "McKnight Fellowships for Book Arts Application" page. To enter the McKnight Fellowship application, click "Continue." If you already have an account, once you sign in you will be taken directly to the application. *If you have any issues logging into Submittable, please contact their customer service directly.*

Complete your application: Fill out your contact information. Upload your application materials. You can "Save" your application and log out of your account to edit it at another time. Before submitting, you must agree to the Terms of Use. When you are ready to submit, click the "Apply" button. Once you have submitted your application, you will no longer be able to edit. You will receive a confirmation email soon after your application is received.

All applications must include the following:

1. **Contact Information Form**. *Required fields will be marked with an asterisk*

2. **Proof of MN residency:** Applicant must have maintained MN residency for at least one year prior to application deadline **(March 2020)**. Please upload a copy of one of the following: MN driver's license (or MN identification card); a utility bill in applicant's name; lease; tribal ID; or other supporting documents.

3. **Résumé:** Submit a current résumé that highlights your professional accomplishments and achievements, including exhibitions, awards, and grants. Do not include your name, home or studio address, phone number or e-mail address on the résumé. Label and upload your resume like this: Resume.PDF

4. **Ten Image Samples:** Applicants must include clear and professional image samples that have been made within the last 10 years. You may include full and detail shots, but each file counts as one of the ten total images. Upload images in the order you would like them to be viewed. Each juror reviews applications individually, one image at a time, on a personal computer monitor. Omit your name from each image (artist signature on the work is acceptable).

Image Specifications:
    Images must be in JPEG or JPG format, 300 DPI, 1200 pixels or greater on the largest side.
    Individual file should not exceed 5 MB.
    Label each artwork: Image_1_TitleofWork (Example: Image_1_Waterfall.jpg, Image_2_Moon.jpg)

Video (optional):
You may submit up to two videos. Each video should be under (3) minutes in length. Video submissions should supplement, not replace or extend, the ten still images. Therefore, any video, kinetic, or time-based work referenced in a multimedia installation must be indicated by at least one still image in the sequence of ten. Omit voiceover narration, artist appearance, or artist name in

the video submission. Process documentation videos, walk-throughs or walk-arounds of static works or studio, and documentation of additional works not included in your ten still images will result in the video being removed from your application.

Video specifications:
>   File types accepted: mp4, mov, avi, mpg, 3gp, flv, webm, wmv, mkv, or m4v files.
>   Under 3 minutes in length.
>   Upload each video as one work sample and in the order you would like them to be viewed. Please leave ample time for the upload.

Additional PDF (optional) :
For artists' work that involves text, artist books, book spreads, didactics, or texts that are   unreadable in the images submitted, there is an option to upload an additional PDF.
The PDF attachment should supplement, not replace or extend, the ten still images. Therefore, any work referenced in the PDF must be indicated by at least one still image in the sequence of ten. *For example, if you upload a photo of the center spread of a chapbook, you may include the text from the chapbook in the PDF.*

5. **Artist Statement**: Submit a current artist statement about your work (one page, 500 word limit). Do not include your name, home or studio address, phone number or e-mail address on the statement. Label and upload your file like this: Artist_Statement.PDF

The Artist Statement should address at least one of the following questions:

>   What is the future direction of your work?
>   What will you do with the funds?
>   How will the fellowship benefit your practice?
>   Why is this a pivotal moment in your practice where receiving this fellowship will make a difference?

A strong Artist Statement **describes your artistic practice in relation to the images you are submitting** and **how the fellowship will affect you and your work.**

6. **Image Description List:** Applicants must include an Image Description List that corresponds to the images/video/pdf included in the application.
Label and upload your file like this: Image_List.PDF.

1. Title
>   Year
>   Medium
>   Dimensions (h x w x d inches)
>   Description: (optional) 400 character annotation describing the medium, context, or installation of a particular work. Information should provide the juror with a greater understanding of what they are viewing. Avoid personal commentary and interpreting the work for the jurors.

VI. Artist Resources

MCBA support:

Applicants are welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (virtually or over the phone) with the Director of Exhibitions and Artist Programs (terin@mnbookarts.org) before submitting their applications online. Appointments may be made between December 1, 2020 and February 19, 2021.

Photo documentation resources:

Books/Online Articles: Numerous books and articles are available on the subject of digital photography and imaging. A trip to the local bookstore or camera shop, a visit to amazon.com, or an Internet search for something like "how to document artwork" or "scanning artwork" should discover plenty of information sources.

Photo Services:
FedEx & Kinko's are probably the most widespread and one-stop option, these stores have computers with Adobe Photoshop and Microsoft Word, can scan your slides or photographs and burn CDs. Visit www.fedex.com to find the location nearest you.

Photo Editing:

Adobe (http://www.adobe.com) currently provides two photo editing products, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Elements, that are very popular among today's designers and artists. Adobe Elements, the less-expensive option, provides a free 30-day trial if you would like to try the program before purchasing. **Get Paint** (http://www.getpaint.net), a free open-source program for Windows-based computers, can also help to format images successfully. If you are a Mac user, download **Gimp** (http://www.gimp.org), a useful image-editing program. **Sumo** (http://www.sumopaint.com) and **Pixlr** (http://www.pixlr.com) are some of the few websites out there that offer image-editing right in the browser.

Arts advocacy resources:

Springboard for the Arts
Springboard for the Arts host workshops on grantwriting and has a number of career consultants who can help with artistic professional development. Springboard has a great site to locate local professionals to document and digitize your work. Springboard also has an A.V. Closet with DSLR cameras, light kits, video projectors and screen, tripods, and more to be checked out for a small fee. For more information visit: https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/avcloset/

MNartists.org
MNartists.org offers some "how-to" help with digitizing images. Their website has a list of technology resources and Arts Advocacy organizations. They periodically run workshops on digitizing images and uploading them to the Internet. For more information visit: www.mnartists.org

Film North
Film North provides free scanner access for mnartists.org artists. They also rent film, photo and editing equipment to members. For more information visit: https://myfilmnorth.org

Minnesota Regional Arts Councils
Minnesota Regional Arts Councils are affiliated with the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. They may be able to offer you computer access and assistance or direct you to someone near you who can. For information about your Regional Arts Council please visit: http://www.arts.state.mn.us/racs/

VII. FAQ

Q: If I am a teaching artist at MCBA, am I eligible to apply for the McKnight Fellowship?
A: Yes, as long as you are not MCBA staff, MCBA board member, family of MCBA staff member/board member, McKnight staff member, McKnight board member, or family member of McKnight board/staff – you are eligible to apply for the program. Teaching artists are considered contracted workers, not MCBA staff members.

Q: I have just recently started to develop my book art skills this year. I am over 40. Am I a mid-career book artist?
A: Mid-career does not necessarily mean mid-age. This fellowship is for book artists who have had a significant amount of achievement in their work – exhibitions, published essays, fellowships, residencies.

Q: Should I include current artwork or a breadth of artwork?
A: You should include your best (and most well-documented) work, but I would recommend including artwork made within the past 8-10 years.

Q: Should I use an active voice when filling out this application? ("I will"…rather than "If I…")
A: Yes.

Q: I applied for the McKnight Fellowship for Textile Artists 2020, but did not receive the award. Am I eligible to apply for the Fellowship for Book Artists 2020?
A: No. You can only apply for one McKnight Fellowship per program year.

Q: Are the jurors book artists?
A: The jury panel is composed of artist/curators/educators who are professionals in the field of book arts.

Q: My name is included in the title of an essay or publication that have been written about me. Should I omit this from my resume entirely?
A: You can substitute "Artist Name" for your actual name if it is included in the title of the essay or publication.

Q: Will image files be viewed individually, two by two, or all at once?
A: Image files will be viewed in order individually beginning with Image 1.

v. Information Sessions

Thursday, January 7, 2021 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Zoom information session (to be posted on our website:
https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/

Saturday, January 30, 2021 12:00PM – 1:00PM

Zoom information session (to be posted on our website:
https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 6:00PM – 7:00PM

Zoom information session (to be posted on our website:
https://www.mnbookarts.org/mcknight-fellowships/

SUPPORT

Applicants are also welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (in person or over the phone) with the Exhibitions and Artist Programs Manager before submitting their applications online. Appointments may be made between December 1, 2020 through February 19, 2021. For further information, contact:

Torey Erin, Director of Exhibitions and Artist Programs

Terin@Mnbookarts.org

612-215-2528

vi. Resources

Photo documentation:

Books: Numerous books and articles are available on the subject of digital photography and imaging. A trip to the local bookstore or camera shop, a visit to amazon.com, or an Internet search for something like "take good digital photographs" or "scanning slides" should turn up plenty of information sources.

Digital Photography: An Introduction by Tom Ang is a helpful guide to the basics of the medium. Chapters 3 and 4 are especially helpful for turning your existing images into digital files. It retails for about $15.

Photo Services: FedEx Kinko's

Probably the most widespread and one-stop option, these stores have computers with Adobe Photoshop and Microsoft Word, can scan your slides or photographs and burn CDs. Visit www.fedex.com to find the location nearest you.

Digital Imaging Software: There are a variety of products that can help you format your images successfully. Packaged software is available to purchase as well as free downloadable software. Recently various websites are offering online image editing tools as well.

Adobe (http://www.adobe.com) currently provides two photo editing products--Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Elements--that are very popular among today's designers and artists. Adobe Elements, the less-expensive option, provides a free 30-day trial if you would like to try the program before purchasing.

Get Paint (http://www.getpaint.net), a free open-source program for Windows-based computers, can also help to format images successfully. If you are a Mac user, download Gimp (http://www.gimp.org), a useful image-editing program.

Sumo (http://www.sumopaint.com), Aviary (http://aviary.com/home), and Pixlr (http://www.pixlr.com) are some of the few websites out there that offer image-editing right in the browser.

Arts Advocacy Organizations:

MNartists.org

MNartists.org offers some "how-to" help with digitizing images. Their website has a list of technology resources and Arts Advocacy organizations. They periodically run workshops on digitizing images and uploading them to the Internet. www.mnartists.org

Film North

Film North provides free scanner access for mnartists.org artists. They also rent film, photo and editing equipment to members. Call for an appointment. 550 Vandalia St #120, St Paul, MN 55114 (651) 644-1912 http://myfilmnorth.org/

Springboard for the Arts

Springboard for the Arts has a great site to locate local professionals to document and digitize your work. Springboard also has an A.V. Closet with DSLR cameras, light kits, video projectors and screen, tripods, and more to be checked out for a small fee. For more information visit: https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/avcloset/

Regional Arts Boards:

These organizations are affiliated with the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. They may be able to offer you computer access and assistance or direct you to someone near you who can.

Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau counties:

Northwest Regional Arts Council

109 S. Minnesota St., Warren, MN 56762-1428 218-745-6733 http://www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org/

Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnomen counties:

Region 2 Arts Council

303 Railroad St SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 218-751-5447

www.r2arts.org

Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and Saint Louis counties:

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council

424 W Superior St Suite 104, Duluth, MN 55802 218-722-0952

www.aracouncil.org

Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin counties:

Lake Region Arts Council

133 South Mill Street, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218-739-5780

www.lrac4.org

Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties:

Five Wings Arts Council 122 3rd St NE, Staples, MN 56479 218-895-5660

www.fwac.org

Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lac qui Parle, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine Counties:

Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

114 N 3rd St, Marshall, MN 56258 507-537-1471

http://swmnarts.org/

Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine counties:

East Central Regional Arts Council

112 Main St S, Braham, MN 55006 320-396-2337

http://www.ecrac.org/

Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright counties:

Central Minnesota Arts Board

220 4th Ave N, Foley, MN 56329 (320) 968-4290

www.centralmnartsboard.org

Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan counties:

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council

22nd Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093 507-833-8721

www.plrac.org

Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Olmsted, Mower, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties: Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council 2778 D Commerce Drive NW Rochester, MN 55901 507-281-4848

www.semac.org

Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties:

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

2324 University Avenue West, Suite 114, St. Paul, MN 55114 651-645-0402

www.mrac.org