



MINNESOTA  
CENTER FOR  
BOOK ARTS



JEROME  
FOUNDATION

# MCBA/JEROME BOOK ARTS MENTORSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

APPLICATION CYCLE OPEN: [June 24 – August 17, 2022, 11:59PM CDT](#)

The Book Arts Mentorship is an artist development program aimed at introducing book arts to early career artists whose primary medium is in another discipline. There are many reasons to explore book arts as a new artistic medium. As a highly malleable and versatile form of expression, book arts extend the possibilities of other art forms. You can create a conceptual space. Experiment with sequence and visual or verbal narrative. Use book art forms to explore, document, or reexamine work produced in other artistic disciplines.

Since 1985, the Jerome Foundation has helped artists push the boundaries of contemporary book arts by supporting the creation of new work. Book arts projects funded by 16 series of Fellowships (now known as Jerome Residency) and five prior series of Mentorships range from exquisitely crafted, fine press volumes and sculptural books to documented performances and one-of-a-kind installations that “break the bindings” and redefine conventional notions of the book form.

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## I. Application Timeline

The MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Mentorship Program deadline is Wednesday, August 17 at 11:59PM CDT. Applicants are welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (virtually or over the phone) with Anika Schneider, Director of Exhibitions and Artist Programs, before submitting their applications online up until one week prior to the application deadline (August 10, 2022). Contact: [aschneider@mnbookarts.org](mailto:aschneider@mnbookarts.org) / 612.215.2525 to set up an appointment.

Friday, June 24, 2022

*Applications open*

Wednesday, July 14, 2022, 6PM CDT

*Information Session (Zoom)*

Saturday, July 16, 2022, 12PM CDT

*Information Session (Zoom)*

Wednesday, August 3, 2022, 6PM CDT

*Information Session (Zoom)*

Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 11:59PM CDT

***Applications due***

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

*Recipients announced to public*

Saturday, September 17, 2022, 10AM CDT

*Orientation at MCBA*

September 17, 2022 – November 9, 2023

*Mentorship period*

## II. Mentorship Schedule

The MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Mentorship Program requires a yearlong commitment from September 17, 2022–November 9, 2023, plus time in January 2024 for deinstallation of artwork. Mentorship recipients must complete all of the following:

*Saturday, September 17, 10am:* Mandatory Orientation Meeting for Mentees in MCBA's Upper Level Classroom

Complete the following required workshops by end of year 2022 (workshops are offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturdays)

***Letterpress 1: Printing Basics (offered the following dates; pick one)***

Saturday, October 15; 10am–4pm CT

Saturday, November 12; 10am–4pm CT

Saturday, December 10; 10am–4pm CT

***European Papermaking***

Three consecutive evenings in the fall/winter of 2022 (9 hours)

***Bookbinding 1***

Three consecutive Thursday evenings in the fall/winter 2022 (9 hours)

***Cutting Equipment Training***

One Tuesday evening (1 hours)

***Paper Beater Training***

One Tuesday evening (1.5 hours)

*Saturday, December 3, 1pm:* Field trip to book arts collection

*Saturday, January 21, 1pm:* Book Artist Studio field trip

*Tuesday, January 28, 6pm:* Mentee Group project planning meeting and Preliminary Project Outline Drafts **DUE** via email to [aschneider@mnbookarts.org](mailto:aschneider@mnbookarts.org)

*Tuesday March 21, 6pm:* *Virtual* Presentations meeting and rehearsal

*Tuesday, March 28, 6pm:* Mentee Virtual Presentations

*Tuesday, June 5, 6pm:* Mid-project check-in meeting with Anika and MCBA Executive Director Elysa Voshell, mid-program evaluations **DUE**

*Friday, June 9:* Final Project Plan **DUE** via email to [aschneider@mnbookarts.org](mailto:aschneider@mnbookarts.org)

*Tuesday, September 5, 6pm:* Exhibition planning meeting in Main Gallery

*Friday, October 6:* Exhibition label info & Artist Statements **DUE** via email to [aschneider@mnbookarts.org](mailto:aschneider@mnbookarts.org)

*Wednesday, November 1:* Exhibition installation begins (schedule times with MCBA Staff)

*Tuesday, November 7:* Complete installation by 12 noon

*Thursday, November 9: 6–8pm:* Exhibition Opening Reception (please arrive by 5:30pm)

*Tuesday, November 13, 6pm:* Debrief: evaluation, keys & storage, new ways to be involved at MCBA

*Monday, January 15:* Exhibition deinstallation begins (Times will be scheduled with MCBA Staff)

Exhibition dates: **Thursday, November 9, 2023–Saturday, January 13, 2024**

Deinstallation: Tuesday, January 16, 2024–Friday, January 19, 2024

### III. Program Support

*The MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Mentorship, administered by Minnesota Center for Book Arts, is made possible by the generous support of the Jerome Foundation. MCBA and the Jerome Foundation encourage artists representing diverse backgrounds and experiences to apply.*

#### **About Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA)**

Minnesota Center for Book Arts is a nonprofit visual arts organization that supports creative expression through traditional and contemporary book arts, including papermaking, bookbinding, letterpress printing, screenprinting, and related art forms. Our mission is to ignite artistic practice, inspire learning, and foster diverse creative communities through the book arts.

We do this by creating access to specialized book arts tools, equipment, and knowledge; supporting interdisciplinary artistic development; expanding opportunities for people who have been historically underrepresented in the field; and presenting exhibitions and educational programs that create connections around the art of the book, promote innovation, and advance the future of the field.

#### **About the Jerome Foundation**

The Jerome Foundation, created by artist and philanthropist Jerome Hill (1905–1972), seeks to contribute to a dynamic and evolving culture by supporting the creation, development, and production of new works by early career artists. The Foundation makes grants to early career artists and those nonprofit arts organizations that serve them in the state of Minnesota and the five boroughs of New York City. The Foundation's highest

priority is to support artists *early in their careers* who create work that is and/or has the potential to be:

**Compelling** - offering distinctive vision and authentic voice.

**Deeply considered, imaginative, and executed** - working with attention to craft and with technical proficiency, providing artistic experiences that communicate unique perspectives and invite viewers to question, discover, and explore new ideas in new ways.

**Innovative and risk-taking** - engaging, questioning, challenging or re-imagining conventional artistic forms. Innovation and risk-taking are Jerome Foundation values that reflect the foundation's interest in supporting artists from diverse backgrounds and experiences who are expanding ways of working, asking questions, and inspiring new ways of imagining.

### III. Program Award

During the program, three artists (or collaborative groups) will receive:

- \$2,000 award for the purchase of materials and to supplement other project costs (subject to state and federal income tax guidelines)
- Basic book arts training at MCBA through required workshops and trainings in letterpress, bookbinding, and papermaking
- An educational stipend of \$1,250 to be used for required workshops and trainings as well as additional workshops or private tutorials to gain skills to complete the project
- 24/7 access to MCBA's bookbinding, printing, and papermaking studios for 10 months
- The ability to receive mentorship support from MCBA staff through project meetings
- One field trip to a local collection and one to a local book artist's studio
- Recognition through a culminating public exhibition in MCBA's main gallery.
- Professional documentation of exhibition
- One-year MCBA membership (10% discount on all workshop tuition, 10% discount at The Shop at MCBA, and invitations to exhibition openings and special events)

#### **MCBA's Studios and Equipment:**

MCBA is a 12,000-square-foot space with two galleries, a Shop, library, state-of-the-art equipment, and specialized studios, including:

**Letterpress Printing Studio** with eight Vandercook Presses, iron hand presses, platen presses, an etching press, Showcard sign press, light table, polymer platemaker, solvents, rags, and gloves. MCBA has a large type library with wood and metal type.

**Bindery** with board shears, guillotine paper cutter, foil presses, paper drill, book cradles, sewing frames, backing press, nipping presses, spiral binder, and hand tools.

**Screen Printing** area with a darkroom, power washer, light tables for exposing screens, squeegees, and screen printing tables.

**Papermaking Studios** with hydraulic press, restraint dryer, one-pound Valley beater, two-pound Reina beater, cook tops, felts, moulds, and deckles.

**Equipment:** MCBA also has equipment for traditional paper marbling, suminagashi, wood engraving, calligraphy, leather tooling, and alternative photography techniques.

## IV. Eligibility Requirements

The intent of this program is to support **early career artists** living and working in **Minnesota** by expanding the possibilities of their practice through book arts.

### Artists who are eligible for this program:

- Literary arts (poetry, spoken word, fiction, creative nonfiction)
- Visual arts (drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media, new media)
- Music (composing)
- Film / video (filmmakers, animation)
- Theater (playwriting)
- Dance (choreography)

This is not an exhaustive list of creative disciplines eligible. Other creative generators are welcomed and encouraged to apply.

The Jerome Foundation does not support musicians, actors, dancers, journalists, designers, or architects. The focus of the Jerome Foundation's support is for creators (generators) of new work versus the interpreters/performers of artistic work. In film and video, the director is the generative artist, therefore directors in film and video are supported, but not in theater or music.

- **Early career artists** are in the early stages of their creative development with 2–10 years of generative experience, and have a focused direction and goals, even while still developing their artistic “voice”. They have yet to be substantially celebrated within their field, the media, funding circles, or the public at large. Early

career artists are vocational (as opposed to avocational, academic, amateur, or educational) artists. For more information about the Jerome Foundation's definition of early career artist, visit:

<https://www.jeromefdn.org/defining-early-career-emerging-artists>

- Artists who have lived in **Minnesota** for at least one year prior to the Mentorship deadline (August 17, 2021).
- Artists who are **available to participate in all aspects of the program**.

**Artists are not eligible for this residency if they are:**

- A degree seeking full-time/part-time student
- A staff or board member of MCBA/Jerome Foundation
- A prior recipient of any McKnight Fellowship
- A prior recipient of the MCBA/Jerome Book Arts Fellowship/Residency or Mentorship.

## V. Application Guidelines/How to Apply

An independent jury with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, who are professionals in the field, will select three artists (or collaborative teams) based on quality of image samples and proposed projects, the Jerome Foundation's values, and eligibility.

Applications are submitted through the online platform **Submittable**. There is a link to the application located on the Jerome Mentorship page of MCBA's website. If you do not already have a Submittable account, you will create a new one. You can "Save As Draft" and return to the application site until you complete your submission and click "Submit" (once you submit you will no longer be able to make any changes to your submission). After you have logged into your account or created a new one, you can fill out the application form and upload the following materials:

**FILE UPLOADS SECTION:**

**Image samples:** Upload images in the order you would like them to be viewed. You may include full and detail shots, but each file counts as one of the ten total images. Each juror reviews applications individually, one image at a time, on a personal computer monitor. Please do not include your name on any images (artist signature on the work is acceptable).

You may upload up to ten (10) samples of your work. Samples should accurately reflect your current work.

Each file must be under 5MB in size.

Please name and upload each file in the order you wish them to be viewed.

Label each artwork: Image\_1\_Titleofartwork (Example: Image\_1\_Waterfall.jpg, Image\_2\_Moon.jpg)

### **Video:**

If desired, video or audio files may be substituted in place of images. Video or audio files cannot exceed a total of 10 minutes.

A maximum of ten (10) work samples may be submitted, regardless of whether they are image files, audio/video links, or a combination of both.

**Written Samples:** Applicants may include up to 6 pages of written work samples. Can not exceed 10 work samples total.

**Image Description List:** Applicants must include an Image Description List that corresponds to the images/video/pdf included in the application. Include Title of Artwork, Medium, Date created, and Size. Please do not include your name on your Image Description List.

**Artist Resume:** List your artistic accomplishments to date. Please do not include your name on your resume. If your name is the title of an exhibition, publication, or other, replace it with "Artist's Name". **2 pages maximum.**

**Letter of Intent:** Explain how the Jerome Mentorship at Minnesota Center for Book Arts will benefit your artistic development (no more than 500 words).

**Artist Statement:** Articulate past themes in your work, creative methods, and directions for future work (no more than 500 words).

**Proof of MN Residency:** Please include one of the following: Driver's license, MN ID card, tribal ID, lease with name on it, utility bill with name/address listed and dated at or before August 2021.

**Applying as a Collaborative Team:** If you are applying as a collaborative team, 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 resume for the collaborative, plus one resume for each of its members, in a

single multi-page document. Do not use your names; rather, distinguish between the resumes by using generic titles, such as, “Artists A and B,” “Artist A,” and “Artist B.”

## VI. Artist Resources

**MCBA:** Applicants are welcome to schedule one-on-one meetings (virtually or over the phone) with MCBA before submitting their applications online up until one week prior to the application deadline (August 10, 2022). Contact: [aschneider@mnbookarts.org](mailto:aschneider@mnbookarts.org) / 612.215.2525 to set up an appointment.

**Springboard for the Arts:** We highly recommend utilizing Springboard for the Arts as a resource for grant writing workshops and equipment checkout for documenting artwork. Their A.V. Closet allows artists to borrow cameras, lighting equipment, and other AV equipment to help document their artwork. For more information, visit:

<https://springboardforthearts.org/professional-growth/avcloset/>

**Film North:** Provides access to an Edit Lab for members. They also rent film, photo, and editing equipment to members. Memberships start at \$85 for individuals with student and senior discounts. Call for an appointment. 550 Vandalia St #120, St Paul, MN 55114 (651) 644-1912

<http://myfilmnorth.org/>

**Regional Arts Councils:** may be able to offer you computer access, accessibility assistance, or direct you to someone who may be able to support you with resources for your application.

Below is a list of Regional Arts Councils in Minnesota:

### **Northwest Minnesota Arts Council**

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

109 S. Minnesota St., Warren, MN 56762-1428 218-745-6733

<http://www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org/>

### **Region 2 Arts Council**

Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties

303 Railroad St SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 218-751-5447 [www.r2arts.org](http://www.r2arts.org)

### **Arrowhead Regional Arts Council**

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

424 W Superior St Suite 104, Duluth, MN 55802 218-722-0952 [www.aracouncil.org](http://www.aracouncil.org)

### **Lake Region Arts Council**

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

133 South Mill Street, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218-739-5780 [www.lrac4.org](http://www.lrac4.org)

### **Five Wings Arts Council**

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

122 3rd St NE, Staples, MN 56479 218-895-5660 [www.fwac.org](http://www.fwac.org)

### **Southwest Minnesota Arts Council**

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

114 N 3rd St, Marshall, MN 56258 507-537-1471 <http://swmnarts.org/>

#### **East Central Regional Arts Council**

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

112 Main St S, Braham, MN 55006 320-396-2337 <http://www.ecrac.org/>

#### **Central Minnesota Arts Board**

Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright counties

220 4th Ave N, Foley, MN 56329 (320) 968-4290 [www.centralmnartsboard.org](http://www.centralmnartsboard.org)

#### **Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council**

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

22nd Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093 507-833-8721 [www.plrac.org](http://www.plrac.org)

#### **Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council**

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

[www.semac.org](http://www.semac.org)

#### **Metropolitan Regional Arts Council**

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

2324 University Avenue West, Suite 114, St. Paul, MN 55114 651-645-0402 [www.mrac.org](http://www.mrac.org)

**Photo documentation:** Visual photo documentation will often be the only thing curators, writers, jurors, or grant panels will see of your work, and good documentation can make all of the difference in a grant competition. For book work, we highly recommend using video to show your books. For tips on how to document your artwork, visit the following websites:

**Article:** Getting Your Sh\*t Together: <https://www.gyst-ink.com/documentation>

**Article:** How to Photograph your Artwork for a Portfolio or the Internet: <https://emptyeasel.com/2007/01/19/how-to-photograph-your-artwork-for-a-portfolio-or-the-internet/>

**Video Tutorial:** Documenting your Artwork with a Digital Camera: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7CiwIDwx4M&t=62s>

**Video Tutorial:** Tips on How to Document Book Art: <https://youtu.be/vps4kn8TrLw>

**Video Tutorial:** Documenting your Artwork with an iPhone: <https://www.mollindo.com/blog/documenting-artwork-iphone>

**Video Tutorial:** How to Present Books Online with Alec Soth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXaYkyJW96Y>

