

Prairie Excellence

The Today and Tomorrow
of Prairie Fine Craft

Open, Juried Touring Exhibition of Fine Craft

Call for Entries

Alberta Craft Council



Prairie Excellence

The Manitoba Crafts Council (MCC), Saskatchewan Craft Council (SCC) and Alberta Craft Council (ACC) are coming together to organize **Prairie Excellence** – a touring exhibition of the best in Prairie Fine Craft.

A total of 36 pieces will be selected for this exhibition (12 from each province). Prairie Excellence will highlight the today and tomorrow of prairie fine craft through the selection of pieces by craft artists in the following categories:

- Established craft artists
- Mid-Career craft artists
- Emerging craft artists

The exhibition will open at the ACC's Feature Gallery and will subsequently tour for three years to galleries in the three prairie provinces, across Canada and into the United States. Artist fees at will be paid for each item in the exhibition.

Who can enter

Prairie Excellence is open to all residents of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. There will be an entry fee of \$50 for every entrant who is not a member of the MCC, SCC or ACC.

Deadline

Entry Deadline: May 3, 2010,
(12 noon MST)

What can be entered

- Entries will be new work (within the last two years) of original design and exceptional execution in any craft medium.
- Each craft artist may enter two pieces. One entry may be a set. A collaborative work counts as one entry for each participant.
- One of a kind, limited edition, and production pieces are equally welcomed.
- There are no specific size restrictions however, since this is a touring exhibition, any piece too large, heavy or fragile for safe shipping, may be rejected.

How to Enter

All entries to be sent by e-mail to prairieexcellence@sasktel.net with the subject line of "Prairie Excellence: Name of Entrant" or sent by mail to:

Prairie Excellence Entries
813 Broadway Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1B5

The entry shall include the following information:

1. Entrant's name,
2. A self-declaration of emerging, mid-career or established artist status,
3. Mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number,
4. Name of piece, materials, and height, width and depth, and
5. The retail value (for insurance purposes).

In addition, the entry must be accompanied by the following supporting material:

- Digital images of the entry. Up to 4 images (including detail shots), will be accepted for each entry. Images must be 4" by 3" at 300 dpi or 1,200 pixels x 900 pixels and be submitted either by e-mail or cd,
- A digital image of the artists either in a work setting or portrait against a neutral background,
- A short statement about the piece. (50 word maximum),
- A short biographical statement about the artist. (50 word maximum),
- A curriculum vitae of the entrant.

Entrants who are not current members in good standing of the MCC, SCC, or ACC as of May 31, 2010, will need to send a cheque for \$50 to:

Prairie Excellence

c/o the Saskatchewan Craft Council,
813 Broadway Avenue, Saskatoon, SK
S7N 0B3 or phone 306-653-3616 ext. 0
to pay by VISA or MasterCard
by the entry deadline.

Selection Process

A three person Selection Committee will be responsible for selecting Prairie Excellence. The primary criteria for selection will be the creative and technical excellence of the entry. The selection Committee will also be able to consider, as secondary criteria:

- The representation of strengths in craft from each province,
- The mix of media in the exhibition,
- The logistics of travel and display,
- The aesthetic appeal of the exhibition as a whole.

The selection of pieces will be roughly equal between:

1. Emerging craft artists: less than five years of practice,
2. Mid-career craft artists: between five and 15 years of practice, and
3. Established craft artists: over 15 years of practice.

Entrants will “self-declare” their status in their entry. However, the Selection Committee will have the right to change this categorization based on their interpretation of the entrant’s cv.

The selection committee will, on the basis of digital images, cv, and artist statements, select a shortlist of not more than 45 pieces. Shortlisted craft artists will be required to deliver their work to specified locations in Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton

and Calgary. All shortlisted pieces will be assembled, and final selection will be made by the selection committee on the basis of examination of the actual pieces.

The decisions of the Selection Committee shall be final, and not subject to appeal.

Selection Committee

Karen Schoonover studied at the University of Calgary and the Banff School of Management and has been a curator of contemporary art for more than 30 years. Currently the Director/Curator of the Art Gallery of Regina, she has produced more than one hundred exhibitions and numerous publications featuring artists from all across the country.

Helen Delacretaz, Chief Curator and Curator of Decorative Arts at The Winnipeg Art Gallery; MA in Fine and Decorative Arts (Manchester University/Sotheby’s Institute 1996) and Art History (University of Victoria 1997); Adjunct Professor at the University of Winnipeg; curator of Grace Nickel: A Quiet Passage (2002) and Robert Archambeau: Artist, Teacher, Collector (2004).

Mary-Beth Laviolette (Alberta) is a free-lance curator currently working on shows for the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, the Triangle Gallery of the Visual Arts and the Okotoks Art Gallery. She was formerly a Senior Curator of art at the Glenbow Museum, and is the author of two books on Alberta art and craft.

General

The submission of an entry gives the MCC, SCC and ACC the right to utilize images of accepted entries for publicity, educational and promotional purposes.

Shortlisted entrants are responsible for their own transit insurance and shipping costs to and from the designated delivery points. All shortlisted pieces must be submitted ready to exhibit, (with clear display instructions if required) and properly packed to travel by public carrier.

Once shortlisted work has arrived in good condition, the MCC, SCC and ACC (and their insurers), will assume responsibility for it and will reimburse 60% of the retail value of the piece should it be lost, broken or stolen while in the exhibition’s possession.

For more information contact:

Manitoba:

Tammy Sutherland: (204) 927-2787 or mcc@mts.net

Saskatchewan:

Les Potter/Judy Haraldson: (306) 653-3616 ext. 25 or scc.exhibitions@sasktel.net

Alberta:

Tom McFall: (780) 488-6611 or acc@albertacraft.ab.ca

Sales

After selection, entrants will be required to indicate whether the piece is available for sale. Prairie Excellence will be responsible for the sale and delivery of works sold from the exhibition. A commission of 40% will be charged on any sales.

Awards and Payment

An exhibition fee will be paid for all pieces selected for Prairie Excellence. The MCC, SCC and ACC are committed to ensuring that there are several major awards attached to the exhibition. Details of awards will be announced when sponsorship funding is secured.

