



MERA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN THE FINE ARTS AND FINE CRAFTS 2011

INFORMATION

About the MERA Award MERA (McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts) recognizes that artists are essential to the vitality and well-being of the communities in which they live and create. The MERA Award of Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts was created in 2008 to recognize excellent works of fine art and fine craft, and to celebrate the local area visual artists who create them.

The MERA Award will recognize innovative artworks that:

- Demonstrate conceptual, formal, material and technical mastery;
- Expand the boundaries of materiality and technique; and
- Show knowledge of contemporary and historical context and tradition.

The MERA Award is given every one or two years on the basis of a **single artwork made by the applicant in the 1-year period before the application deadline.**

The MERA Award includes a cash prize of \$1000. Additionally, each MERA Award recipient and runner up may be given the opportunity to publicly present his or her artwork at the time the prize is awarded.

This prize is funded in large part by the generous donation to the Perth and District Community Foundation (PDCF) made by Chris and David Dodge who conceived the Award. The Award is administered and presented by MERA.

About MERA MERA is a not-for profit corporation dedicated to enriching the lives of members of its community of all ages by providing and encouraging a variety of opportunities for personal expression, instruction and appreciation of the visual and the performing, arts. MERA's activities are based in a heritage schoolhouse in the hamlet of McDonald's Corners in the Township of Lanark Highlands, Ontario.

Further Information For further information about MERA or the MERA Award see: www.meraschoolhouse.org, email MERA at meraschoolhouse@bell.net or write to MERA at:

MERA AWARD

McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts (MERA)
P.O. Box 76 McDonald's Corners, ON K0G 1M0

For further information about the Perth and District Community Foundation, see www.pdcf.ca or email PDCF at pdcf@bellnet.ca

GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING FOR THE MERA AWARD

To apply for the MERA Award, eligible applicants must submit their completed applications by the application deadline.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE 2011 MERA AWARD IS JANUARY 31, 2011.

Eligibility of Applicants

To be eligible to apply for the MERA Award, an applicant must be:

- a citizen or permanent resident of Canada; and
- ordinarily resident in one of the following Eastern Ontario municipalities: the Townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac and North Frontenac and the Town of Perth.

An applicant is not eligible to apply for the MERA Award if he/she:

- Is a member of the MERA Award Assessment Committee,
- Is any of the following “MERA Affiliates” in office at any time in the one year period before the date of the Award ceremony:
 - a Director or Officer of MERA,
 - a MERA employee or an administrative officer under contract to MERA, or
 - Is a member of the immediate family (spouse or equivalent, son or daughter, son in law or daughter in law or equivalent, parent or sibling) of any member of the Assessment Committee or any of the MERA Affiliates.

Completed Application

The completed application consists of:

1. A completed Declaration Form signed by the applicant;
2. A completed Biographical Information document;
3. 1 digital photographic portrait of the applicant.
4. 5 digital images of the artwork submitted for the MERA Award;
5. 3 digital still images of each of three to five of the applicant’s artworks which provide support or context for the submitted artwork;
6. For each supporting artwork, a statement of up to 30 words describing how the artwork relates to the submitted artwork;
7. An image list describing the title, date, materials and dimensions of the artwork shown in the images;
8. A letter of recommendation from someone who meets the qualifications to serve on the assessment committee set out below; and
9. The completed Application Checklist

Requirements for Digital Images

- Submit PC compatible jpg files only
- Files must be maximum of 72 dpi, 1024 x 768 high pixels and 1MG
- Title each file (image) with a number, your initials, the date and title of your artwork
- Ensure that the numbers for the first nine images begin with a zero (for example: 01initialsyeartitle.jpg, 02initialsyeartitle.jpg,, etc.). This will ensure that they are presented in the correct order.
- Do not put any special characters, symbols, periods, quotation marks or spaces (such as #/-'&|...) in any file name.
- Save image files on the CD-ROM or DVD-ROM without creating folders.
- Mark each CD-ROM or DVD-ROM with your name.

Requirements for hard copy documents

- Single-sided 8.5 x 11 inch white paper
- Font size 12 in Times New Roman or Arial type
- Use titles or headings for each section.
- At the bottom of each page of each document put the name of the applicant and the page number in the format p. x of y
- Each document must be separately page-numbered

Completed Applications will become the property of MERA and will not be returned to the applicant.

Submission of Applications

Applications must be submitted by postal mail or courier addressed to:

MERA AWARD

**McDonald's Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts
P.O. Box 76, McDonald's Corners, ON K0G 1M0.**

To be considered, an application must be complete and must be postmarked on or before 31 January 2011 or stamped by the courier as received on or before 31 January 2011.

MERA will not accept late applications or applications submitted in person, by fax or email. Incomplete applications and applications that do not meet the stated requirements will not be presented to the MERA Award Assessment Committee.

Assessment Process

The Award winning artwork will be chosen by an Assessment Committee according to the stated Assessment Criteria.

At its sole discretion, the Assessment Committee may decide to share the MERA Award between two qualified applicants or give no Award. The Assessment Committee may, at its sole discretion, select up to 3 runner up artworks.

Decisions of the Assessment Committee will be final.

Applicants will receive no feedback from the assessment process.

Assessment Criteria

The MERA Award will recognize innovative artworks that:

- Demonstrate conceptual, formal, material and technical mastery;
- Expand the boundaries of materiality and technique; and
- Show knowledge of contemporary and historical context and tradition.

Assessment Committee

The assessment committee will consist of three or five members appointed by MERA's Board of Directors who meet the following qualifications:

- ordinarily resident in Canada
- A recognized specialist in fine art or fine craft
- The director (current or former) or a member of the board of directors of a Canadian museum, public gallery or artist-run centre that has demonstrated a commitment to producing, collecting, distributing and/or exhibiting contemporary Canadian art
- An association of professional visual artists or a national service organization in fine arts or fine craft
- A dean, chair or professor of fine arts or fine crafts at a Canadian university or art college
- A Canadian private dealer in fine arts or fine craft including the proprietor of a private gallery
- An established fine arts or fine craft critic or curator
- A fine art or fine craft practitioner who has shown their artwork in a public or commercial art gallery in Canada in the two years preceding the application deadline

The Assessment Committee will be comprised of at least one member who ordinarily resides in one of the following municipalities: the Townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac and North Frontenac and the Town of Perth; and a majority of members who ordinarily reside outside these municipalities.

At least one member of the Assessment Committee will have expertise in the field of fine arts and at least one member of the Assessment Committee will have expertise in the field of fine crafts.

Assessment Committee members may serve more than one term.

The names of the Assessment Committee members will be released with the results of the competition.

Notification and Presentation of the MERA Award

The creator of the award winning artwork and each of the runner up artworks (if any) will be advised of the MERA Award results by email or postal mail no more than fifty (50) days after the application deadline. Shortly after, the Award results will be posted on MERA's website www.meraschoolhouse.org

The MERA Award will be presented at an awards ceremony to be held during MERA's Annual General Meeting on March 28, 2011. Award winner(s) are expected to attend in person. If requested, Award winner(s) and runners up will, if practicable, bring their artwork to the Award ceremony.



MERA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN THE FINE ARTS AND FINE CRAFTS 2010/11

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Provide the following biographical information in one document. Use the headings below in the order given.

First and Last Names

Postal Address

Email address

Website address

Telephone Number

Artist's Statement - This is a description of the kind of work you do and your philosophy in making it. - 200 words maximum.

Education

Exhibition Record - List 5 maximum

Honours and Awards - List 5 maximum

Permanent Collections and Commissions - List 5 maximum

Teaching and Lectures (you have done) - List 5 maximum

Media – For both fine art and fine craft, list up to 10 types of media you work in (e.g. lithography, oil, watercolour, porcelain, felt, pen and ink, metal, collage.)

Objects – For fine craft, list up to 10 kinds of objects you make (e.g. sculptural furniture, clothing, décor, lamps, jewellery)



MERA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN THE FINE ARTS AND FINE CRAFTS 2011

DECLARATION

As an applicant for the MERA Award of Excellence in the Fine Arts and Fine Crafts 2011, I declare that:

- I am a citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
- I am ordinarily resident in one of the following Eastern Ontario municipalities: the Townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac and North Frontenac and the Town of Perth;
- I will abide by the decision of the Assessment Committee; and
- My application becomes the property of MERA

Should I receive the MERA Award or recognition as a runner up, I agree that:

- I will cooperate in the preparation of promotional materials for the Award and the Award ceremony;
- MERA and PDCF may use my photograph and the information submitted as part of my application relating to my art practice to publicize the MERA Award. (I hereby give copyright permission, at no charge, to MERA and to PDCF to make copies of the images submitted as part of my application for the purpose of publicizing the MERA Award in any media including the MERA and PDCF websites);
- I will attend the MERA Award ceremony (only MERA Award winners must attend but runners up are encouraged to attend); and
- I will keep the results of the assessment process confidential until the date of the public announcement by MERA.

Name of Applicant: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____



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CHECKLIST FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

(Print) Applicant's Name: _____

Check off what you have included in your application and submit a hard copy of this checklist with your application.

____ This Checklist (1 hard copy)

____ Declaration (1 hard copy)

____ Completed Biographical Information document (4 hard copies or a pdf version on CD or DVD)

____ 1 digital photographic portrait of yourself

____ 1 set of 5 images of the Submitted Artwork

____ 1 set of 3 images for each of the Supporting Artworks

____ For each Supporting Artwork, a statement of up to 30 words describing how it relates to the Submitted Artwork;

____ A completed Image List document (4 hard copies or a pdf version on CD)

____ A hard copy letter of recommendation

I confirm that:

____ All digital files conform to the format and file naming conventions in the MERA Award 2011 Guidelines

____ All hard copy documents conform to the requirements in the MERA Award 2011 Guidelines

____ 1 CD or DVD is included labeled with my name,

____ the CD or DVD is PC compatible