

Open Call: Short-Term Artist Studios

APPLICATION DEADLINE: midnight on October 4, 2026
NOTIFICATION DATE: Late October 2026
LEASE DATE: Mid-November 2026 - May 31, 2027
APPLICATION FEE: None

Submit an application

RESIDENCY PROGRAM MISSION

The Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington's mission is to enrich community life by connecting the public with contemporary art and artists through exhibitions, education and public programs, and artist residences.

The museum's Artist in Residence Program supports emerging and mid-career professional contemporary artists by offering a unique platform for exposure and connection, affordable studio space, and time to develop their practices. Through short-and long-term studio residencies, the program fosters lasting relationships among artists, providing a cohort experience, support and opportunities to test new ideas, exhibit work, and engage in dialogue with curators, peers and the public.

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

MoCA Arlington was founded over 50 years ago by contemporary artists. The Artist in Residence program is one of the four foundational pillars of MoCA's connection to contemporary artists and the public that also includes exhibitions, education and public programs.

Resident artists participate in a cohort of 10-12 artists and have opportunities to engage with peers during studio visits, group critiques, and monthly meetings. Participants also receive professional development support from the Curator & Residency Program Manager.

Resident artists are expected to participate in public open studios about three to four times per year during MoCA Arlington's exhibition openings and other special events. Resident artists also support MoCA's mission by participating in the annual gala and selecting

mutually agreed upon outreach services annually which may include participating in public programs, teaching art classes or workshops, and participating in special projects with museum partners some of which may be compensated.

Artists are expected to use the studio at minimum 40 hours per month throughout the duration of the residency.

Participants rent a private turnkey ready studio at a significantly subsidized price that includes:

- utilities and internet,
- free parking and close Metro access,
- 24-hour access to the studio most days of the year,
- access to elevator,
- access to a lounge area, kitchenette, and a bathroom with a shower, and private work sinks.

All studios and shared facilities are wheelchair accessible.

SHORT-TERM STUDIO

The short-term shared studio will be available from November 1, 2026 to May 31, 2026 and is not renewable. This 600 square foot studio is shared by two artists, with each artist paying rent for 300 square feet priced at $1.50 per square ft plus $50 per month for utilities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Contemporary visual artists working in all media are welcome to apply. Artists must live within the local DC, MD, VA area during the program. Selection criteria include, but are not limited to:

- artistic merit,
- diversity of media,
- artistic representation within the residency program.

The program is not designed for commercial artists. Applicants cannot have another residency or be in school while a MoCA Arlington resident.

Additional considerations for short-term studios:

Special consideration will be given to artists who apply with project proposals.

Artists should note their willingness to share the space with another artist.

International artists may apply.

Please note that MoCA Arlington cannot provide visas, nor can it sponsor international applicants. All international artists must secure their own visas prior to their arrival.

Artists who participated in MoCA Arlington's long-term residency within the last five years (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 or 2025) may not apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

After an initial review by staff and current resident artists, MoCA Arlington will conduct interviews with a final short list of candidates.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Each resident artist must meet the following conditions:

• Artists are responsible for maintaining the studio in a safe and reasonably tidy manner and will not make alterations to the space without permission. Artists must leave the studio in the state in which the studio was found and remove all belongings at the end of the residency.

• Artists are responsible for acquisition and care of their artwork, materials, and equipment. Artists must carry insurance on the studio, their work, and equipment.

• Artists must observe all MoCA Arlington's rules, including security regulations, use of studio, cooperation with staff and other artists, timely payment of rent, and all health and safety regulations.

• Artists must pass a background check prior to participation in the program.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

• CV/ Resume (3 pages max; must be PDF or word document.)

• References (3 professional or academic references with name, phone number, and email)

• Engagement Statement (500 words max; must be PDF or Word document)

The Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington Residency program expects that its artist residents engage with one another, participate in monthly resident meetings and maintain communication with one another and MoCA Arlington staff. Describe your availability for and interest in resident community-building activities including but not limited to studio visits, artist talks, workshops, open studios for classes or community groups and resident critique sessions.

• Artist Statement (1 page max; must be PDF or word document)

• Work Sample Index (work must be made in the past 2 years)

Please include Artist Name, Title, Year, Medium, and Dimensions for each work. If submitting password-protected video or audio samples, please also include the relevant passwords in the Work Sample Index.

• Work Samples

Artists may submit up to ten work samples. These work samples may be still images or video/ audio material. Artists are welcome to submit a combination of still images and recorded material if it makes sense for their practice but the maximum number of work samples that can be submitted is ten.

• Project Proposal (For short-term studio only. 1 page max; must be PDF or Word document)

Please describe how you would use the short-term studio. Information about your materials and process are encouraged. If there is specific exhibition or project that you would use the studio for, please describe in detail and include exhibition dates and venue information.

To submit still images: Still images should be uploaded as .jpg files.

To submit recorded material (video or audio): Recorded material can be submitted as links to this material online. Links should lead directly to the individual work on the artist's website or on a video sharing platform (Vimeo, YouTube etc.) If recorded content is password protected, please include the password in the Work Sample Index.

MoCA Arlington is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community, including staff, resident artists, board members, instructors, students, and the general public. MoCA Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or any other category protected by local and federal laws.

CONTACT US

ph: 703 248 6800
email: residency@mocaarlington.org