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**HCCC ANNOUNCES CALL FOR RESIDENT ARTISTS
Free Online Application Open through March 1, 2021**

(HOUSTON, TX) January 14, 2021 – Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) announces its application for the 2021 - 2022 Cycle (September 2021 – August 2022) of its Artist Residency Program is now open through March 1, 2021. This year, due to generous funding, there is no online application fee, and all artists working in craft media, including wood, glass, metal, fiber, clay, and mixed media, are encouraged to apply.

About the Artist Residency Program

For nearly 20 years, the Center's artist residency program has offered time and space for craft artists to focus on their creative work and interact with the public. The program supports emerging, mid-career, and established artists working in all craft media. Each year, artists apply from throughout the U.S. and beyond, and eight-to-ten artists are selected for a three-to-twelve-month residency. The juried selection is based on quality of creative work, ability to interact with the public, career direction, and program diversity. Accepted artists will be notified via e-mail in April.

Residents are required to have their studios open for at least two days each week, giving visitors the unique opportunity to walk in, ask questions, and watch them work. This deeper level of interaction between artists and visitors allows the public to learn about a range of craft processes and techniques and helps artists to gain exposure, make connections within the Houston community, and educate people of all ages about craft. Applicants should consider the public facing nature of the residencies and the fact that a major goal of the program is to provide visitors with an opportunity to explore contemporary craft through engagement with working artists.

Benefits of the Artist Residency Program

Benefits of the residency include 24/7 access to studio space, cultural and professional development opportunities, a monthly stipend that includes a small housing/materials allowance, the opportunity to give an artist talk and exhibit work, and much more.

What Artists Are Saying

Recent resident Nicolle LaMere commented on what she loves about having her studio open to the public: "Witnessing the spark of wonder is the most exciting part of interacting with visitors to my studio. I use a wide variety of materials, some of which have been transformed in unexpected ways. I want people to enjoy my art, but I also want to enliven curiosity and wonder in their everyday experiences of the world around them."

Current resident artist Kirstin Willders says that HCCC's residency allows artists to work independently in their studios but not in isolation. "We're surrounded daily by our artist-colleagues, but also by other types of arts professionals – educators, administrative specialists, preparators, curators – that provide additional conversation and enhance the residency experience. That extra dialogue, I think, increases your momentum while also preventing you from getting tunnel vision."

Interdisciplinary Craft + Photography (ICP) Artist Residency

HCCC and Houston Center for Photography (HCP) are again offering a joint Interdisciplinary Craft + Photography (ICP) Artist Residency, a program designed for artists creating work at the intersection of contemporary craft and photography. This three-month residency supports artists with an experimental, multidisciplinary edge, who are testing the boundaries within both fields. ICP residents will be hosted in a studio space at HCCC and will receive all the benefits of regular HCCC resident artists. In addition, from HCP, they will receive printing credits and access to the digital lab. Artists will participate in a joint artist talk and will be included in HCCC's annual *In Residence* exhibition, as well as receive a feature in HCP's *spot magazine*.

It's Free to Apply!

For the first time ever, HCCC is pleased to offer a free application process for artists. For more details, application requirements, and to apply online, visit: <https://www.crafthouston.org/artists/residents/apply-to-program/>

Thanks to Our Funders

HCCC wishes to thank the National Endowment for the Arts, the John & Robyn Horn Foundation, the Susan Vaughan Foundation, The Gordon A. Cain Foundation, and the Windgate Foundation for their generous support of the Artist Residency Program.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC provides exhibition, studio, and garden spaces to support the work of local and national artists and serves as a resource for artists, educators and the community at large.

Located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, HCCC is open Thursday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Closed major holidays. Admission is free. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street. HCCC is three blocks south of Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station on Main Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

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