

2017 GRANT CALENDAR

Apr 12:	Grant application opens
May 17:	Grant application closes
Oct 2:	Finalists notified
Nov 30:	Grantees announced

ABOUT THE GRANT

The Arts Writers grant supports both emerging and established writers who are writing about contemporary visual art. As long as a writer meets the eligibility and publishing requirements, they can apply.

By “contemporary visual art,” we mean visual art made since World War II. Projects on post-WWII work in adjacent fields—architecture, media, film, theater/performance, sound, etc.—will only be considered if they directly and significantly engage the discourses and concerns of contemporary visual art. Projects with a pre-WWII component will only be considered if the main focus is contemporary.

APPLICATION

We recommend that you read through the Application Guide before filling out the online application. Eligibility requirements and writing sample submission word counts vary for each project type.

You may only apply for one project per grant cycle. You must choose one project type: Article, Blog, Book, New and Alternative Media, or Short-Form Writing. The checklist of all the questions you will need to answer is on page 7.

The eloquence and coherence of your answers to the application questions are important. Although these answers are not technically writing samples, they will be considered in the evaluation process, and jurors read them carefully.

To access the application form, go to: artswritersgrant.slideroom.com.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this grant, an arts writer must be

- an individual;
- applying for a project about contemporary visual art;
- an art historian, artist, critic, curator, journalist, or practitioner in an outside field who is strongly engaged with the contemporary visual arts;
- a US citizen, permanent resident of the United States, or holder of an O-1 visa;
- at least twenty-five years old;
- a published author (specific publication requirements vary depending on grant category).

An arts writer is NOT eligible for this grant if they are

- applying on behalf of an organization;
- applying for a project in which their primary involvement will be as an editor;
- a full-time student in a degree-granting program (with the exception of those students who are simultaneously maintaining professional careers as arts writers);
- an artist writing an interpretive essay on their own work;
- an artist whose proposed project does not directly address contemporary visual art (a piece of writing by an artist does not automatically qualify as “arts writing” in this context);
- applying for a project based on a PhD dissertation or MA thesis;
- applying to publish a Q&A interview (or series of Q&A interviews);
- applying to assemble an archive or database;
- applying for a project on Andy Warhol;
- applying for a project that will be published by a commercial gallery;
- a grantee of the Art Writers Grant Program;
- a current employee, consultant, board member, or funder of Creative Capital or the Warhol Foundation, or an immediate family member of such a person.

FAQs

1. How can the grant money be used?
Grant money can only be used to cover expenses incurred after you have been awarded the grant. In addition to project expenses, we suggest you pay yourself a “writer’s fee” for the period you will be working on your project. This money can be used toward living expenses, however you define them. Please see page 3 for more details.
2. How long is the grant period?
The grant period is one year, beginning in January. Short-Form Writing and Blog applicants are expected to publish regularly during this year. For Article and Book applicants, completion dates will vary depending on the specific project, but it is worth noting that because the goal of the program is to support new writing during the grant period, books slated for completion early in the grant period do not allow for sufficient assistance from the program.
3. Do I need a confirmed publisher to apply?
A confirmed publisher is not a prerequisite for applying. You may list potential or confirmed publishers in the application.
4. Can I apply with a collaborator?
Projects involving collaboration between two writers or between a writer and a practitioner in another field are eligible for consideration, except in the Short-Form Writing category. Only one application per collaboration will be accepted: collaborators must select one member to be the primary contact. Collaborators must meet the requirements for age and student status. However, only the primary applicant must meet the citizenship requirement.

WRITING SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants may submit up to three writing samples with word counts totaling no more than: Book: 15,000 words; Article & New and Alternative Media: 10,000 words; Blog & Short-Form Writing: 5,000 words

Samples do not need to be published, but they should reflect your highest accomplishment.

All samples must be in English.

Each writing sample must be submitted as a separate PDF.

PDF Formatting

All writing samples must be submitted as PDF files. We prefer a PDF created from a digital file, such as a Microsoft Word document. Please ensure that 1) the pages are numbered, 2) the document is double-spaced, and 3) the text is twelve-point font.

If you must use a scan from a magazine, please make sure that the text is legible and clear when printed on an 8.5” x 11” piece of paper at 100%, and that the orientation of the document is portrait.

Writing Sample Information

You will need to provide the following information regarding your writing samples:

Title, Description, Date, Publisher, Word Count

Blog/Website URLs

If you are applying to fund an existing blog or a New and Alternative Media project, please list the URL in the first writing sample description field.

Writing Sample Instructions for Collaborators

If you have co-authored texts with your collaborator in the past, please include at least one such text as a writing sample. If you have not co-authored texts with your collaborator in the past, each collaborator should submit one writing sample of up to 10,000 words.

A visual artist collaborator can submit one PDF with up to fifteen images. To submit other media please email tech@artswriters.org.

BUDGET

The expenses section of your budget should include a “writer’s fee” for the period during which you will be working on your project. This money can be used toward living expenses, however you define them. If you will be taking time off from another form of income-producing employment (teaching, commercial writing, editing, etc.), we suggest you base your writer’s fee on the salary or freelance rate you will be forgoing in order to devote your time to your project.

Expenses related to the realization of your project can include:

- Writer’s fee
- Research (including an assistant)
- Image permissions and fees; reproduction and copying costs
- Travel (airfare, car rental, ground transportation, lodging, meals, per diem)
- Living expenses
- Childcare expenses

The grant is intended to cover costs associated with research and writing, not design and production. We do make an exception, however, for costs associated with obtaining images and reproduction rights, since adequate illustrations are essential to the success of a written argument on works of visual art.

Grantees must pay taxes on the money they receive from us. The IRS considers income from grants to be taxable.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Please note that we only respond to questions via email:

questions@artswriters.org.
tech@artswriters.org.

For technical questions about the SlideRoom application you can email SlideRoom directly at:

support@slideroom.com

PROJECT TYPE GUIDELINES

ARTICLE

The Article category supports essays, magazine features, and extended exhibition reviews. Catalogue essays will be considered, except for exhibitions held at commercial galleries. Articles may be published in print or online and may range from approximately ten to fifty manuscript pages. A confirmed publisher for a proposed article is not a prerequisite for application. Article grants are \$15,000 each.

Eligibility requirements

Article grant applicants must have published a minimum of ONE of the following:

- two articles about contemporary visual art of at least 2,000 words each;
- seven exhibition reviews of at least 500 words each.

Writing sample submissions

Article applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 10,000 words.

Article FAQs

Can I apply for an Article grant if I want to write an exhibition catalogue essay?

While articles written for exhibition catalogues published by commercial galleries are not eligible, those for catalogues published by a museum or nonprofit institutions are eligible. However, the grant money must directly support your writing—it must not cover design, production, or other costs typically borne by the institution. In addition, the grant must serve to supplement—not replace—the honorarium paid to you by the institution.

Can I apply to write a series of articles?

No. We do not accept applications for article series. You may only apply to write a single text. If you want to write a series of articles, you should apply in the Short-Form Writing category.

BLOG

The Blog category supports the continuation of existing blogs and the creation of new blogs about contemporary visual art. We understand a blog to be an open-ended, ongoing website where most posts are written by a single writer (or, if it is a collaborative blog, by the same few writers). The program distinguishes between blogs and online magazines (websites operated by individuals or groups who function in an editorial capacity). The latter are not eligible for program support; however, writers may apply for texts to be published by online magazines in the Article or Short-Form Writing categories. Blog grants are \$30,000 each.

Eligibility requirements

Blog grant applicants must either

- have been blogging about contemporary visual art on a regular basis for at least a year; OR
- have published at least eight pieces of writing related to contemporary visual art of at least 250 words each.

Writing sample submissions

Blog applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 5,000 words.

If you are applying for funds to support an existing blog, please list the URL in the first writing sample description field.

Blog FAQs

I'm having trouble figuring out whether I should apply under the Blog or the New and Alternative Media category. Do you have any advice?

We understand a blog to be an open-ended, ongoing website where most posts are written by a single writer (or, if it is a collaborative blog, by the same few writers). By contrast, new and alternative media projects typically emphasize technological features not prevalent in blogs.

How often must I post on the blog?

We expect all blogs to feature new posts regularly. If you are starting a new blog, it must be live within three months of receiving the grant funds, with regular postings for the remainder of the grant period.

BOOK

The Book category supports books at all stages of their development from research through the completion of writing. The category funds a broad spectrum of books on contemporary visual art, from general-audience criticism to academic scholarship. Book grants are \$50,000.

Eligibility requirements

Book grant applicants must

- have been writing professionally about contemporary visual art on a regular basis for at least three years; OR
- have previously published a book on contemporary visual art or a related subject with a reputable publisher; OR
- have completed a PhD dissertation on contemporary visual art or a related subject. (Note: book project applications based on your PhD dissertation are not eligible.)

Writing sample submissions

Book applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 15,000 words. If you have a draft of a chapter or an essay on the topic

of your proposed book, please include it as one of your writing samples.

Book FAQs

Can I apply to edit a collection?

No. Applications will not be accepted for edited anthologies consisting of essays written by a number of different authors, or of previously published material by a single author.

What kind of books are funded?

The Book category supports a broad range of books on contemporary visual art, from general-audience criticism to academic scholarship. By “contemporary visual art,” we mean visual art made since World War II. Projects on post-WWII work in adjacent fields—architecture, media, film, theater/performance, sound, etc.—will be considered if they directly and significantly engage the discourses and concerns of contemporary visual art. Projects with a pre-WWII component will only be considered if the project’s main focus is on contemporary art. Writers working on experimental or non-traditional arts writing are also invited to apply.

NEW AND ALTERNATIVE MEDIA

The New and Alternative Media category supports projects that make use of technology to explore the process of writing and reading texts on contemporary visual art. Of particular interest are projects that deploy the potential of new and alternative media in response to the increasingly complex and hybrid nature of current artistic practice, that target new or wider audiences, and that advance innovative approaches to conducting a public dialogue about art. Please note that the intention to publish your project online does not automatically make it eligible for this category. New and Alternative Media projects must in some way actively engage the properties and potential of their proposed medium. New and Alternative Media grants are \$15,000 each.

Eligibility requirements

New and Alternative Media grant applicants must have published a minimum of ONE of the following:

- two articles about contemporary visual art of at least 2,000 words (one or both of these can be experimental writing about contemporary visual art);
- seven texts related to contemporary visual art of at least 500 words each each.

Writing sample submissions

New and Alternative Media applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 10,000 words. If relevant, you may also submit URLs for one or more of your writing samples in the writing sample description field.

New and alternative media FAQs

I'm having trouble figuring out whether I should apply under the Blog or the New and Alternative Media category.

We understand a blog to be an open-ended, ongoing website that consists of regular entries

of commentary. By contrast, new and alternative media projects typically emphasize technological features not prevalent in blogs. New and alternative media projects need not utilize the Internet.

SHORT-FORM WRITING

The Short-Form Writing category supports the ongoing practice of writers who regularly produce short texts that respond to current exhibitions, events, and issues in contemporary visual art. By “short” we mean texts in the range of 250-1,500 words. By “writers who regularly produce” we mean writers who, on average, publish at least one text per month (and who intend to publish at least that amount if awarded a grant). Short-Form Writing grants are \$30,000 each.

Eligibility requirements

Short-Form Writing grant applicants must have published at least eight pieces of writing related to contemporary visual art of at least 250 words each.

Writing samples submissions

Short-Form Writing applicants may submit up to three writing samples totaling no more than 5,000 words.

Short-form writing FAQs

If I am applying as a short-form writer, how should I answer the project questions?

The project can be a continuation of your published writing, or a proposal to focus on a particular topic, or an experiment with writing that you would like to develop. Either way, you must

frame your proposal as a project. If you are applying to continue your current practice, present it in terms of your interests (whether aesthetic, regional, political, theoretical, or some combination thereof).

How should I answer the questions about contextualizing the project?

In the field that asks you to “contextualize this project in relation to existing writing on the subject,” write about how your short-form writing (whether reviewing, reporting, or feature-writing) relates to or is different from other arts writing. In the field that asks you to “contextualize this project in relation to your own work,” write about what you hope to do during the grant period that you were not previously able to do; or, if you are applying to continue your current writing practice, write about how it contributes to the discourse of contemporary visual art.

Is the category designed primarily to support a specific sub-group of short-form writers?

The Short-Form Writing category is designed to support short-form writers writing on all areas of contemporary visual art and at all phases of their careers.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

CONTACT

Slideroom contact information, Professional Name, Date of Birth, Citizenship, Gender, Ethnicity

RESUME

- Narrative Biography*
- Publications* (*In this field, please list as much of your professional publishing history as you can or want.*)
- Publications that make you eligible to apply* (*In this field, please just list the publications that prove your eligibility for the grant. So, for example, the short-form requirement is to “have published at least eight pieces of writing related to contemporary visual art of at least 250 words each,” so you would just list eight publications that make you eligible.*)
- Education*
- Employment
- Miscellaneous (Please include dissertation information here if applicable.)

COLLABORATOR (if applicable)

Contact Information

Name*, Address*, Email*, Date of Birth*, Gender, Ethnicity, Citizenship

Role

Explain the collaborator’s role in the proposed project.*

Biography

Collaborator Biography*

Budget

Expenses*

PROJECT

- Which project type are you applying for?*
- Project Title *
- Project Description*
- Table of Contents and Chapter Summary (books only)
- Contextualize this project in relation to existing writing on the subject.*
- Contextualize this project in relation to your own work.*

- Which ideas in contemporary visual art do you presently engage with in your writing?*
- Project Timeline* (Work Completed to Date / Work Pending / Estimated Completion Date)
- Confirmed or Potential Publisher(s)

WRITING SAMPLES

Applicants may submit up to three writing samples with word counts totaling no more than: Book: 15,000 words; Article & New and Alternative Media: 10,000 words; Blog & Short-Form Writing: 5,000 words.

PDFs

Title*, Description*, Date*, Publisher (if applicable), Word Count*

Blog/Website URLs

If you are applying to fund an existing blog or a New and Alternative Media project, please list the URL in the first writing sample description field.

* Required Field