



# 2020 Art Gallery of Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art

## Call for Submissions

The Art Gallery of Alberta is seeking submissions for its Biennial of Contemporary Art exhibition. This exhibition will be jointly organized and presented at the Art Gallery of Alberta and Remai Modern in the Fall of 2020.

Remai Modern is a new museum of modern and contemporary art in Saskatoon. It is a vibrant, imaginative and prescient museum committed to affirming the powerful role that art and artists play in questioning, interpreting and defining the modern era. Remai Modern is home to the world's foremost collection of Picasso linocut prints, and aspires to be a leading centre for contemporary Indigenous art programming.

### History of the Biennial

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Since its inception in 1996, the Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art has presented new and exciting works by 211 Alberta contemporary artists. The Alberta Biennial has served to promote Alberta artists across the country and brings national attention to Alberta's art scene.

Historically, the Art Gallery of Alberta has partnered with organizations to curate, produce and present the Biennial across the province. Previous partners include Glenbow, Art Gallery of Calgary, Lillingworth Kerr Gallery, Nickle Galleries, Walter Phillips Gallery at Banff Centre.

### 2020 Biennial of Contemporary Art

For 2020, the Art Gallery of Alberta will be expanding the concept of its Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art. This call is open to artists physically or otherwise within, from, or in proximity to the borders of Alberta, Treaty 4, Treaty 6, Treaty 7, Treaty 8 and Treaty 10.

Artists are encouraged to use the following information as a guideline for their submission:

A border can draw a distinction; define an area; define a practice; define a state of mind. A border is a separation between two realms but it's also the point where they meet. Borders can be metaphysical, geopolitical, geographical, arbitrary, fluid and calcified.

What does it mean to cross a border? What does it mean to have a border cross you? How are some borders prioritized over others? What are the borders we cross every day without even realizing? What is it to cross the border between conscious



and unconscious life? What is it to cross provincial borders; territorial borders? How are these experiences personalized or universal?

Artists are encouraged to think of borders in the largest possible sense.

### **2020 Biennial of Contemporary Art Curators**

**Sandra Fraser** is Curator (Collections) at Remai Modern. She has earned a reputation as an inquisitive and determined curator, who is actively engaged as a researcher and contributor, advocating for the role that museums play in the collaborative formation of community. Her previous roles include Acting Chief Curator and Associate Curator at the Mendel Art Gallery, and Curator at the MacLaren Art Centre,. Fraser has a Masters in Art History from York University, a certificate of Museum Management and Curatorship from Sir Sandford Fleming College, and a BA in Art History from the University of Toronto. She is a member of the International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art and Association of Art Museum Curators, and is board chair of AKA artist run gallery.

Guest Curator for Remai Modern, **Felicia Gay**, of Swampy Cree and Scot descent from Cumberland House, SK, has brought her thoughtful lens of Indigenous worldviews and counter-narratives to contemporary curation since 2004. Under her direction as Curator, Wanuskewin Heritage Park Galleries became the only public gallery in the region to exclusively feature Indigenous contemporary art, recognized as a model of international leadership in this area. With Joi Arcand, Gay founded the *Red Shift Gallery, a contemporary Aboriginal art space* in 2006. She has Masters and Bachelors degrees in art history from the University of Saskatchewan. Gay was awarded a Canada Council for the Arts Aboriginal Curatorial Residency, and was the 2018 recipient of the Saskatchewan Arts Award for Leadership for her work as a cultural worker and advocate for Indigenous artists in Saskatchewan.

**Franchesca Hebert-Spence** is Adjunct Curator of Indigenous Arts at the Art Gallery of Alberta. She is a MFA candidate at the University of Winnipeg, in the Masters of Arts in Cultural Studies stream with a BFA in ceramics from Ishkabatens Waasa Gaa Inaabateg, Brandon University Visual and Aboriginal Arts program. Hebert-Spence's grandmother was from Sagkeeng First Nation, Manitoba and her research focuses on identity both as an indigenous woman as well as a feminist. Hebert-Spence began her art journey as a maker which has created an empathetic lens within her curatorial praxis. Kinship is a common theme within her projects and those responsibilities direct the engagement she maintains within her community.

**Lindsey V. Sharman** is Curator at the Art Gallery of Alberta. She has studied Art History and Curating in Canada, England, Switzerland and Austria. Earning degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and the University of the Arts, Zurich. From 2012-2018 she was the first curator of the Founders' Gallery at the Military Museums in Calgary, an academic appointment through the University of Calgary. Her primary area of research is politically and socially engaged art practice. Curatorial projects of note include *TRENCH*, a durational performance by Adrian Stimson; *Felled Trees*, an exhibition deconstructing national identity at Canada House, London; *Gassed Redux* by Adad Hannah; and the nationally touring retrospective *The Writing on the Wall: Works of Dr. Joane Cardinal Schubert*.



## Submission Process

As with all past Biennial exhibitions, the curatorial selection process will commence with a public Call for Submissions. This year the call is open to artists physically or otherwise within, from, or in proximity to the borders of Alberta, Treaty 4, Treaty 6, Treaty 7, Treaty 8 and Treaty 10.

### Submission Guidelines & Rules

Submissions should include the following:

- Artist's Statement (250 words or less, saved as artist last name AS; example: smithAS)
- Artist's Biography (100 words or less, saved as artist last name AB; example: smithAB)
- Curriculum Vitae (saved as artist last name CV; example: smithCV)
- Concept of an artwork, either already existing or unrealized (250 words or less, saved as artist last name CA; example: smithCA)
- Visual support material: max 10 samples of your artistic work with a corresponding file list.
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Please include description of work, title, date created, mediums, and size.

- Image files: up to 5 MB each, jpg files only. Maximum 10 images, numbered 1-10.
- Video files: up to 60MB each, no longer than 5 minutes in length. You may also link to media via YouTube, Vimeo and SoundCloud. Maximum 3 video files.
- Audio files: up to 30MB each, no longer than 5 minutes in length. Maximum 3 files.

Acceptable submission file formats:

We will accept files in doc, .rtf, .jpg or .pdf formats. Video files must be Windows and Mac compatible, viewable with QuickTime, Windows Media Player or VLC.

We will accept submissions via mail, email, or in the form of a link to DropBox (file-hosting website). We will not accept any submission hosted on a website that requires the AGA become a member, and we will not download materials from a personal website. Mailed submissions must include the appropriate documents on a digital format (CD, DVD, USB flash drive), as well as hard copies of the written materials.

A self-addressed envelope with appropriate postage can be included for return delivery if desired.

If you have any questions or wish to send your application support materials in hard copy form please contact [lauren.ball@youraga.ca](mailto:lauren.ball@youraga.ca)

**Submission Deadline: 11:59 pm, May 1, 2019**

**The gallery closes at 5pm May 1, 2019, for hard copy submissions**

For on-line information please visit [www.youraga.ca](http://www.youraga.ca)

E-mail submissions and inquiries may be addressed to [lauren.ball@youraga.ca](mailto:lauren.ball@youraga.ca)