

Professional artists

Studios and studio-apartments

2008

2009

Québec-Finland
research residency program
for **independent curators**

Conseil des arts
et des lettres

Québec 

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Professional artists grant program
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for independent curators**

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In the interests of stylistic clarity, the masculine form is used in this document and is understood to designate women and men.

Foreword and program objectives

With a view to pursuing the fruitful collaboration that it undertook in 1997 with Finland through the establishment of an artists' and studio-apartment exchange program and broadening and developing durable cultural ties with that European country, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec recently concluded a reciprocity agreement with the Finnish Fund for Art Exchange, an organization that works in collaboration with the key government bodies involved in the development of the visual arts in Finland.

This agreement calls for the establishment for an exploratory one-year period of a new exchange program under which a Québec curator and a Finnish curator will engage in a two-month research residency in the partner country. The residencies will take place in Montréal and Helsinki, respectively, and will allow the candidates or curators selected to take advantage of the extensive opportunities to establish professional contacts related to their career development.

In particular, this program is intended to:

- contribute to the establishment of professional ties and exchanges of artistic viewpoints between Québec and Finnish independent curators;
- develop the role that independent curators play in bolstering relations between Québec and Finnish professionals and organizations;
- enable Québec curators to conduct research on the arts in Finland;
- foster the development of Québec-Finnish curated projects;
- promote the work and career development abroad of Québec curators;
- facilitate the identification and circulation of information on new artistic creation, research, production and dissemination networks or models.

Target candidates

The program is intended for independent curators with professional experience in the organization of dissemination projects in the realm of the visual arts and an understanding of the networks in which artists and their works develop and circulate.

An independent curator is an intervener who is not a regular employee of a dissemination centre whose skills combine to differing degrees the development of fields of investigation, the creation of exhibition projects or activity programs, support for artists and other collaborators on projects, and the production of interpretation and mediation tools. Independent curators may be self-taught but usually have specific training in art history, sociology, philosophy or the arts.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible, applicants must:

- have carried out a series of independent exhibitions as a curator;
- have to their credit at least three public presentations resulting from their work and five years of experience in the organization of projects, programs or events;
- have published critical texts in a professional context;
- propose a research project that conforms to the objectives of the research residency program.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants as contemplated in section 2(1) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and in both instances must normally reside in Québec and have resided there over the past twelve (12) months.

Restrictions

Groups are not eligible for these residencies.

An applicant who has already received financial assistance under the grant program for professional artists may submit an application provided that he has submitted a report on the use of the grant or a progress report if the project has not been completed. This report must have been approved by the Conseil.

An applicant who has more than 10 years of practice may not receive more than \$50 000 in grants over a four-year period, whether the grants were obtained individually or as part of an artists' group. This amount excludes travel grants and career grants.

An applicant who has less than 10 years of practice may not receive more than \$40 000 in grants over a four-year period, whether the grants were obtained individually or as part of an artists' group. This amount excludes travel grants.

Type of eligible projects

- Research related to the development of an exhibition concept pertaining to a dissemination centre or a programmed event such as visits to workshops or meetings of curators and critics;
- Exploration and analysis of the components of dissemination networks with a view to registering Québec professionals in them;
- Exploration and analysis of practices linked to the interpretation of artistic forms that might be drawn upon in the Québec professional context;
- Professional enrichment;
- The development of ideas and the drafting of a text focusing on an aspect related to contemporary art that refers to the Québec and Finnish cultural contexts.

Place of residency

The Finnish Fund for Art Exchange (FRAME) will offer professional support and the Helsinki International Artist Programme (HIAP) will provide accommodation. Certain public events such as workshops, readings and meetings will also be organized in conjunction with the research residency.

In Québec, the ARTEXTE information centre in Montréal will host the Finnish curator. This centre is recognized for its extensive documentation, research assistance services, network of partners and collaborators, and the quality of its reflection and the dissemination of critical thinking in the realm of contemporary art.

Length of the residency and amount of the grant

Under this exchange program, a Québec curator and a Finnish curator will engage in a two-month research residency in the partner country, in February and March 2009.

The amount of the grant is \$5 000. The grant is intended to cover the international transportation costs of the applicant selected, personal insurance, travel costs, living expenses and the purchase, transportation and insurance of the material required to carry out the recipient's project.

The Finnish Fund for Art Exchange will make available to the Québec curator accommodation and work space.

Submitting applications

Applicants wishing to apply for a studio grant must fill out the 2008-2009 Research residency program for independent curators' application form and be sure to submit all of the required documents. This form and a *Grant Application Presentation Guide* are available on request from the Conseil and on its Web site.

Only the original copy of the form signed by the applicant will be deemed valid. Applications may not be sent by fax or by email.

Incomplete applications or those sent after the registration deadline will not be submitted for evaluation. The postmark will be regarded as proof of the date on which the application was mailed. Applicants who submit their applications to the Conseil's offices will receive a dated acknowledgement of receipt.

Processing of applications

The Conseil does not send an acknowledgement of receipt.

A program coordinator ensures that the applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria pertaining to the program and the type of grant requested.

Before the juries meet, copies of each application are sent to all members for examination. The juries meet and evaluate all items in the file.

Evaluation of applications

In this instance, a two-tiered jury system applies, under which candidates are pre-selected in the country of origin and the host partner makes the final selection. The evaluation of the application by a two-tiered jury system may delay the transmission to the applicant of the response.

In Québec, grant applications are evaluated by juries formed of persons renowned in one or several of the disciplines concerned and who have a sound knowledge of the artistic work in the sector for which they were chosen. Members of the juries must be on the list of resource persons approved by the Conseil's board of directors.

Ethics

Board members, members of juries and employees of the Conseil are subject to codes of ethics. All must act in good faith in performing their duties and refrain from taking part in any discussion concerning a grant application that risks creating a conflict of interest. Confidential or privileged information transmitted to them may not be used for personal reasons.

Evaluation criteria

- the quality of professional work;
- the curator's contribution to his discipline and the extent of his influence on the art scene;
- the content of the arguments presented concerning the relevance and objectives of the research residency;
- the realism and feasibility of the proposal.

Awarding of grants

Residency grants are paid in a lump sum.

In accordance with tax legislation, the grant recipient is bound to declare the amount of the grant he receives. The Conseil issues a tax slip to each grant recipient and submits the list of grant recipients to the ministère du Revenu.

The Conseil may not award a grant in respect of the same expenses related to a project already supported in conjunction with another program of the Conseil or any other organization.

By cashing a grant cheque, the applicant undertakes to carry out the project planned and to comply with the conditions governing the payment of the grant.

When an applicant is unable to carry out part or all of the activity covered by the application, or a major change is made to the project or work schedule, he must promptly contact the Conseil to make the appropriate arrangements. Should he fail to comply with this condition, the Conseil may demand repayment of the grant.

The grant recipient undertakes to submit a report on the use of the grant or the results of his research along with a statement of the expenses incurred to carry out the project, using the form provided by the Conseil. The report on the use of the grant

must be submitted no later than three months after the completion of the project and must be approved by the Conseil. A grant recipient must produce his report before submitting a new application.

The outcome of a research project remains the property of the applicant, as do any rights he may hold on any work, specification, drawing, document, plan, report, datum, invention, method or process produced in conjunction with the program. However, the Conseil may reproduce certain of these documents for the purpose of internal management.

When the project results in public activities such as performances or exhibitions, or in publications, the Conseil's logo or mention of its contribution must appear in information, promotional or advertising documents in order to inform the public of the use of cultural funding. Grant recipients must comply with standards governing the use of the Conseil's logo, as described in a document available from the Conseil or on its Web site.

Failure to comply with any of the foregoing conditions may jeopardize a candidate's eligibility to submit a subsequent application.

Registration deadline

November 14, 2008

If the registration deadline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, it moves to the next business day. The postmark will be regarded as proof of the date on which the application was mailed.

Incomplete applications or those sent after the registration deadline will not be submitted for evaluation.

Place of registration

Applications must be sent to the Montreal office of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, c/o Ms Francine Royer.

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Additional information

www.frame-fund.fi
www.hiap.fi
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