

## **USC Upstate Art Studio Fellowship Project**

### **Open to Qualified Visual Arts Students**

#### **West Main Artists Cooperative**

The West Main Artists Co-op, located at 578 West Main Street in Spartanburg is a non-profit group of artists, writers, and musicians that have joined forces to create affordable and effective studio, exhibition, performance, and retail space in downtown Spartanburg. The co-op has individual workspace for approximately 35 artists, and membership provides a private studio, access to common workspaces with shared equipment and tools, and enables collaboration and interaction among the artists and community. Commons areas are available for public events such as exhibitions, receptions, lectures, and workshops. Converse and Wofford Colleges have each committed to a membership, and USC Upstate will participate in this unique and exciting opportunity by offering a student/faculty fellowship for a four-month period each semester/summer.

Students will compete for the honor of participating in this scholarly opportunity that will provide a studio for one semester or summer session. In the event there is not adequate student participation the award will be available to an art faculty at USC Upstate. A committee comprised of Visual Arts faculty will evaluate the applicants based on the quality of their work and of their proposal for activities to be accomplished during the fellowship period. Art faculty will supervise the project under the Independent Study or Undergraduate Research programs at Upstate. Students may register for academic credit but it is not a requirement. See SART 399.

#### **Application Criteria**

- Actively registered USC Upstate Student
- Actively registered major in Art or Art Education
- Successful completion of 15 hours in art courses

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in art courses
- Application of project description (narrative of the project and the proposed outcome)
- Portfolio of sample work (10 - 20 examples in digital slides in PDF file)
- Two letters of recommendation from academic professionals knowledgeable of the applicants' performance in art
- Agreement to abide by USC Upstate Fellowship and West Main Artists Co-Op guidelines via signed contractual agreement
- Agreement to present a completed project or body of work in exhibition, presentation, publication, or similar academically recognized forum/venue within six months of the project end date
- Students may register for SART 399 Independent Study and earn 3 hours of academic credit for the Studio Fellowship Project. (\* Registration for credit is not required)

### **Fellowship Applicants**

Fellowship applicants will express an interest in conducting research and creating a specific project or body of work utilizing a designated studio at the West Main Artist Co-op located in Spartanburg, SC. Typical project requests will be for the duration of one semester, but may be extended based on the quality and justification of the project. In the cases of extended time, the Fellowship Review Committee will determine the length of the award.

### **Fellowship Requirements**

The selected Fellow will be considered the leasing member of the cooperative, and is solely responsible for all personal liabilities, covenants, and responsibilities of using the space. USC Upstate will carry no legal responsibility for the space, the participants, or any other aspects of the West Main Artist Cooperative. In the event the Fellow defaults on the Fellowship agreement, he/she will give USC Upstate immediate notification and will forfeit all rights to the space and any related supplies,

materials, or equipment related to the Fellowship, whether located at the West Main Artist Co-Op or at the USC Upstate campus. Works of art or related activities created during the Fellowship will be sole property of the Fellow, and should be publicly credited to the USC Upstate Art Studio Fellowship program facilitated by the University of South Carolina Upstate Visual Arts. USC Upstate will have reproduction rights to use images and photographs of the Fellowship activities for promotion and publicity purposes.

### **Fellowship Deadlines**

The review committee will accept applications twice per year with deadlines October 25th (for spring Fellowships) and March 25th each year (for summer and fall Fellowships). Qualified applicants may apply for fall, spring, or summer semesters. In the event there is a lack of qualified student applications, USC Upstate Art Faculty may request to use the studio space by submitting a research project proposal to the review committee. The faculty research proposal will state how the use of the studio will support or enhance the member's scholarship, teaching and or commitment to USC Upstate. It is expected that faculty research projects will result in material that will lead to an exhibition, presentation, performance, pedagogical application, or publication of the research activity.

### **Fellowship Review Committee**

A Fellowship Review committee consisting of at least four members will be created from the USC Upstate Visual Arts program and may include a USC Upstate outside faculty or staff.

### **Fellowship Outcome**

Individuals receiving the fellowship are required to present a completed project or body of work in exhibition, presentation, publication, or similar academically recognized forum/venue within six months of the end of their award period. The individual is responsible for planning, preparation, execution and costs of the activity.

### **Meeting the USC Upstate Metropolitan Mission**

The USC Upstate Art Studio Fellowship will support and enhance the mission of USC Upstate as a metropolitan university that is to provide leadership in promoting the Upstate's economic, social and cultural development through its teaching, professional service, basic and applied scholarship, and creative endeavors. The USC Upstate Art Studio Fellowship project is relevant to the USC Upstate mission in that it will embark on new research in art techniques and art historical references, and result in projects and bodies of work for exhibition, publication, pedagogy, and furthered public relations with the metropolitan community. This form of scholarly activity is integral to the mission of the Metropolitan University to offer a diverse population of students the most current educational information available for intellectual growth and applied experience integrated into a field of study.

### **Special Circumstances**

Requirements of eligibility may be modified or waived in cases where a student is recommended by Visual Arts faculty based on demonstrated ability and performance.

### **Further Information**

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