TX•20
TENAS BIENNIAL
An independent survey of contemporary art in Texas

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES
GENERAL INFORMATION

The Texas Biennial is a geographically-led, independent survey of contemporary art in Texas. The program was founded in 2005 to provide an exhibition opportunity open to all artists living and working in the state. The seventh edition of the Texas Biennial will take place in the fall of 2020, with a series of programs focused on relevant conversations from around Texas, and parallel programming at venues across the state. For the first time in the history of the biennial, the scope of the project will also include Texas natives and artists with deep connections to Texas working in any part of the world.

In addition to invited artist participants, the 2020 Texas Biennial Open Call will be open to artists currently living and/or working in Texas, Texas natives/expats working anywhere in the world, as well as artists who have produced or exhibited significant work in Texas over the last three years. Artists working in any media or discipline may apply online from December 2, 2019 – February 29, 2020. The 2020 Texas Biennial will take place in the fall of 2020 (between the months of September and December, 2020) with central exhibitions and programming in Austin. Additional details and eligibility guidelines follow.

CURATORIAL INFORMATION

Ryan N. Dennis and Evan Garza are the curators and creative directors of the 2020 Texas Biennial. With central exhibitions and programming to take place in Austin, the curators aim to expand the 2020 exhibition to include sites and cities across the Lone Star State, with satellite exhibitions, performances, panels, and programs happening throughout the duration of the biennial.

The creative direction for the 2020 Texas Biennial will be released in spring/summer 2020, following a period of studio visits, planning, and engagement with invited artists and partner institutions. As Open Call artists contemplate which artworks would be most appropriate to submit for consideration, the biennial curators would like to regard the following issues and questions:

- What are the historical, political, ecological and social conditions that impact the work artists are currently producing?
- What social or cultural impact are artists from Texas making?
- What identity politics are at stake in Texas? How are those issues reflected in contemporary art produced here and by Texans elsewhere?
- What formal or material concerns are currently being investigated by artists presently? What relationship do these concerns have to social, political or environmental concerns?
- What does it mean to identify as Texan in the present moment?
ELIGIBILITY

The Texas Biennial is open to all artists living and/or working in Texas, artists native to Texas and Texas expats working anywhere in the world, and artists who have produced or exhibited significant work in Texas in the last three years. Artists attending Texas-based residency or fellowship programs are eligible, as long as the work submitted for consideration was produced or conceptualized while in Texas. Invitations to participate in the Texas Biennial are at the sole discretion of the curators. Artists will be selected on the basis of work entered. Works completed before 2017 should not be entered, and works shown more than twice in Texas since 2017 should not be entered.

Artists may submit work for consideration in any medium and at any scale, with the understanding that exhibition venue and format may not be able to accommodate all work. In the case of performance, installation, or some other element which may have not been physically realized at the time you apply, you must provide adequate written documentation describing the work. If you have a question about whether your work can be accommodated, please contact info@texasbiennial.org.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted online from December 2, 2019 – February 29, 2020 at texasbiennial.org/opencall.

Applications not submitted by 11:59 pm CST on February 29, 2020 will not be reviewed.

All entries must be completed using the online form. Please read these guidelines carefully before beginning your application. You may print these guidelines for future reference. You may also access these guidelines at any time during the application process via the “Guidelines” link at the top of the application.

Once you start the online application process, you can leave the application by either logging out or closing your browser. You can return to edit your application at any time before you complete your entry. Once you have completed your application, it is no longer accessible and cannot be edited. Do not click the “Apply” button until your application is complete and you are fully satisfied with its contents. Be sure to click “Apply” when you have finalized your application. Applications in Spanish are welcome.

To begin the application process, you will be required to create a user account. There is a $20 USD application fee for each entry. Application fees will not be refunded for entries deemed ineligible.

If you work both individually and collaboratively, you may enter both as an individual, and as part of your team(s). You may submit as many applications as you wish; however you must create a new user account for each application.

UPLOADING YOUR INFORMATION

Within the application, you will see two areas for uploading your information, “Artist Information” and “Artworks”. Below is detailed information for each section.
ARTIST INFORMATION
You may upload up to three (3) documents to provide background information such as a CV (not to exceed three pages) and/or an Artist Statement (not to exceed more than 500 words) and/or recent press. Acceptable formats are: .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt.

ARTWORKS
Each entry can include up to seven (7) works, and each work may be represented by up to three (3) files. Files may include still images, video files, as well as written documentation. Acceptable file formats are: .jpg, .tiff, .gif, .mp3, .wav, .mp4, .avi, .mov, .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt

- Image resolution should be large enough for the curator to view the work clearly on a computer.
- Name image files accordingly: lastname_image#
- URLs for videos hosted online or for web based works may be used instead of uploading files. However please include a video still with the artwork information detailed below. Links must include http:// or https:// at the beginning of the URL.

ARTWORK INFORMATION
- Title
- Dimensions: Height, Width, Depth — Please use inches in decimal format. (Example: 20.25”)
- Medium
- Year Completed

EQUIPMENT
You should be prepared to provide all equipment necessary to present your art, although please disclose your needs in advance in case the Texas Biennial can provide necessary equipment locally.

AUTHORSHIP AND OWNERSHIP
By entering a work, you represent that you are its author and that you either own the work or have the owner’s permission to enter it for consideration.

SELECTED ARTISTS
Final notification of the curator’s selections will be sent to all artists by Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Notifications will be sent to the email address entered in the application. All artworks are subject to in-person curatorial review before final acceptance. The exhibition will take place in Austin in the fall of 2020, ensure your work will be available from September to December 2020.
INSTALLATION
Selected work must be received and ready to install. Unless other arrangements are made in advance, installation will be handled by the Texas Biennial. Artists who will be completing site specific installations will need to work within a specific timeline to be disclosed at a later date.

PUBLICATION-QUALITY DOCUMENTATION
In order to promote the exhibition in a timely fashion, publication-quality documentation of all work must be received by the Texas Biennial before acceptance is final and artist selections are announced. All documentation for completed works must be provided by the artist by the agreed due date in order to be considered for acceptance. Installations, performances and site specific works will be handled accordingly in a case by case scenario.

LOAN AGREEMENTS
Artists will be required to complete a loan agreement, including specification of insurance value, before acceptance of a work is final.

ARTIST STIPEND
Selected artists will be awarded a stipend. Artist stipends may vary depending on individual projects, however honoraria will be distributed evenly.

HANDLING AND SHIPPING OF WORK
Work accepted for the exhibition may be hand-delivered or shipped pre-paid to the exhibition venue; artists are also responsible for return shipping. The Texas Biennial does not pay shipping costs, but will work with you to make the most cost-effective arrangements available. All work must be packed appropriately to ensure its safety during shipping and storage awaiting exhibition installation. The Texas Biennial will use the same or similar packing to prepare work for return shipping. The Texas Biennial is not responsible for damage due to improper packing or shipping.

INSURANCE
All work included in the exhibition will be insured by the Texas Biennial from the moment the work is accepted at the exhibition venue location, until the work is picked up by the artist, designated recipient, or shipper. All work included in the exhibition must have a value for insurance purposes.

REPRODUCTIONS AND PUBLICITY
By entering your work and providing images and other documentation, you agree that any images and other materials you provide may be reproduced and published in the Texas Biennial catalog and promotional and press materials and distributed via the websites and social media channels of Big Medium, the Texas Biennial and the project’s partners. You also agree that images of your work may be reproduced in the context of the exhibition and its promotion by third parties such as journalists and media outlets.
QUESTIONS?

Please carefully read the above guidelines before contacting us with an inquiry. Further information can be found on our FAQ page. If you don’t find your answer there, we’re happy to answer your questions, please direct all inquiries to info@texasbiennial.org

ABOUT BIG MEDIUM

Big Medium is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting artists and building community through the arts in Austin and across Texas. We provide opportunities for artists to create, exhibit, and discuss their work and connect to an engaged and diverse audience. Our goal is to make art a part of everyday life.

Big Medium produces the East and West Austin Studio Tours — annual city-wide art events that offer the public an opportunity to meet local artists in their creative spaces; Texas Biennial — a curated statewide survey exhibition of contemporary art in Texas; Creative Standard — professional development workshops and resources supporting artists at any stage of their career; the Big Medium Gallery — a dedicated space for innovative and experimental exhibitions; Tito’s Prize — a $15,000 award for one Austin artist and solo exhibition; Studios at Canopy — studio space for over 60 artists; The LINE Residency — a six week residency in a private studio space inside of a hotel; International Exchange — promotes cross-cultural understanding through art and increases connections to Texas artists; Art Swap — artists, collectors, and appreciators exchange art and ideas; Sponsored Projects — administrative and financial support for artists and projects.