

Community Mural Project Open Call

How do we turn our dreams into a reality in Atlanta? While Atlanta is seen as a hub for acceptance, diversity, and cultural innovation, economic inequality is growing, and the displacement of families is increasing. Atlanta's future seems unclear, as many seek to "improve" our city by replacing it with new luxury high rise buildings.

What if we can create a future for Atlanta where we all have the space to thrive? In order to understand what we want Atlanta to be, we have to carry on the tradition of resilience and resistance that has created Atlanta's identity as a city. We (Atlanta Contemporary & Magda Dumitrescu) are looking for art that uses patterns to show the history of resistance in Atlanta's Westside, and/or what an equitable future in Atlanta can look like. This mural project is a platform for the community to hold those in power accountable while unapologetically celebrating everyday resistance.

There are many ancestral traditions that center around celebration and community as a way to combat hatred and violence, which are still practiced today in Atlanta. Although these traditions of resistance can take different forms, many use art to document and amplify their message. This is because art overcomes language barriers and can bring different messages together by using patterns. There are so many beautiful ways to create a pattern, through bringing ideas together and repeating them in an order using color, shape, line, texture, sound, and light. It is essential to celebrate and share both new and old patterns with the community in order to find new paths to the future together- through weaving, rhythms, gardening, drawing, dancing, collage- and many other methods.

Images submitted by artists to the open call will be woven together in a wheat-pasted collage installation, inspired by the work of Romare Bearden, an artist and activist who was instrumental in Atlanta's art community from the 1970s to 1980s. Bearden, known for his collage work, was one of the preeminent artists of the Harlem Renaissance. His practice spanned many types of media, including oils, pastels, cartooning, watercolor, printmaking, songwriting, and sculpture. He used his art to celebrate Black cultures and document the world he lived in. Bearden was an activist, a social worker, and an advocate for independence and resisting white supremacy in Art as well as everyday life.

In order to ensure safety and social distancing, all images will be digitally submitted. This way, artists can submit work in any media, including sculptures and installations, in the form of photos or digital renderings. As the community mural is a wheat-pasted collage, artists' images may be augmented; however, the original image will be in a digital gallery on the museum's website alongside an artist statement.

About The Sankofa Bird:

The Sankofa bird is a mythological figure from traditional West African folklore and is prominent in both oral and visual storytelling. In the Ghanaian Twi language, the word means "go back and get it". The bird is traditionally shown with its head turned backward, protecting a precious egg (either held in its beak or cradled in its wings) while its feet race forward. In order to nurture a bright future (the egg), we must learn from and understand our past.

Project Details

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2021

Art Goals and Criteria

This mural project is a platform for the community to hold those in power accountable while unapologetically celebrating everyday resistance.

Artist Eligibility

Artists must live in metro-Atlanta. If an artist is under the age of 18, they must have a guardian send Nisa Floyd permission to use their work.

Art Location

The mural will be located on the exterior side of Atlanta Contemporary near the Studio Artist entrance.

The mural will be a focal point of the building. The mural fronts the parking lot that has the most visibility due to passing traffic. The site of the mural is always open to the public.

The mural will combine 10 – 20 works of art into one piece of collaborative art

Budget and Materials

Artists will be paid \$50 for their work if selected for the mural. Artists can opt out of an honorarium payment if they wish to remain eligible for funding opportunities through Atlanta Contemporary's Nexus Fund.

Atlanta Contemporary will provide the support panel(s) and other materials which will be used to install the mural. Due to social distancing measures, Magda and Nisa will be installing the mural. This will be broadcast live on Atlanta Contemporary's social media. Artists are ONLY responsible for submitting their work.

Application Requirements

Artists should submit the following information for consideration.

- 1- 3 images (jpg format with image size set to 300 dpi, 4" x 6" image size, approximately). Please use the following format for naming digital files: Artist name- Artwork Title-Length x Height (Depth in case of sculpture)-Year. For example, J.M.W. Turner-Dawn after the Wreck-14x10-1841.
- An annotated list of images with title, media, size, date, and other relevant information
- A brief description of artistic narrative for each image submitted.
- a short biography

Deadline and Submission Address

All submissions must be received by **11:59pm on January 31, 2021**. Early submissions are encouraged. No mailed submissions will be accepted.

Selection Process and Criteria

The selection panel will include Nisa Floyd and Magda Dumitirescu. Selection criteria include artistic excellence and thematic relevance.

Guidelines:

Artists must submit a statement explaining each image submitted, 1-2 sentences

If there are people in the image, each person in the image understands that this image will be publicly displayed. The artist is responsible for getting their permission before submitting it.

If the artist submitting is under 18, they **MUST** include contact information and a signature from their parent or guardian.

No fetishization of Black bodies.

No corporate logos or advertising.

No glorifying of gore or violence.

No plagiarism of another artist's work. (You can reference another artist, just make sure that your work is unique and different from the original piece).

Project Timeline

- Submission deadline: January 31
- Panel review: February 1 – 5
- Artist notification: February 6
- Contract signing February 7 - 8
- Curation and installation: February 10 – 28
- Unveiling and opening February 26