

Joan Mitchell Fellowship

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

APPLICATION DUE DATE **Monday, April 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM EDT**

For more information on the Joan Mitchell Foundation and Joan Mitchell Fellowship, please review the attached Fellowship Background Information document.

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APPLICATION INFO

Application Format	<p>The application is hosted on the platform Submittable and contains 34 questions, including contact information, ten work samples, three 300-word narrative statements: an artist statement, a statement about the potential impact of the award, a statement about your interest in the cohort engagement aspects of the Fellowship; a short 150-word biography, a resume or CV, a headshot, and demographic information.</p> <p>CVs should not contain a biography or any narrative statements.</p>
Artist Information	<p>Contact information, including website and social media links, is not shared with the jury.</p> <p>The demographic questions, which include the option to decline to answer, are for the Foundation's use. We collect this information to gain a better sense of the communities we are reaching and where we might want to do further outreach. Your answers will be visible during the review process. We may share anonymous demographic statistics publicly when we announce the selected artists, as well as with our Board and other specific constituencies, but we will never share personal demographic data publicly, beyond anything you decide to include in your public materials (which you would have a chance to review if selected as a Fellow).</p>

<p>Work Samples</p>	<p>The application requires ten (10) work samples showcasing recent work. See “Application Suggestions” section for more detailed advice on work sample selection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ The qualification of “recent” work varies from applicant to applicant, depending on the way an artist works. We advise that you include work mostly created within the past 5 years, if possible, but it is not a requirement. We encourage you to consider how the work that you submit aligns with your written statements. ↳ Each work sample should show a single work; composite images are only allowed when depicting front and back, or multiple perspectives. ↳ Suggested image size: 72 dpi with a file size of 25MB or smaller. Images should be no more than 6,000 px on any given side. Videos no more than 1080p. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Work samples are not downloaded; images larger than the suggested image size may not be visible on Submittable.</i> ↳ Total file uploads within submissions may not exceed 800 MB. ↳ All files must be labeled with the artist's last name, followed by a first initial and number 1–10 (example: Mitchell_J_Image1). ↳ Files can be uploaded in any of the following formats: .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .m4v, .mov, .mpg or .mp4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ PDFs should be submitted for composite views only, and must be limited to one page. ↳ Please do not include descriptive text (e.g., title, date, materials, photography credit) on images. This information should go in the metadata section accompanying the image. ↳ We cannot accept work samples showing works that were made collaboratively, as this inhibits the jury's ability to make a fair and accurate assessment of your individual vision, practice, and work.
<p>Video Submissions</p>	<p>You can submit up to two videos as part of the total ten work samples. Each sample must be no more than one minute. If a video sample is longer than one minute, jurors will be instructed to watch the first minute only; therefore, it is in your best interest to edit the clip prior to submission.</p> <p>Some examples of acceptable video submissions include documentation of an installation or sculpture, detailed video of a painting to see its surface, or a performative or other time-based work. Video should not be submitted to convey a biographical narrative or act as an overview of an artist's practice, such as promotional materials or interviews. We generally discourage the use of video to show process, unless it feels essential to understanding a practice.</p>

Metadata	Each work sample upload has a set of fields (metadata) to add the title, date, materials, dimensions, and a brief description of how or where the work was made/shown as well as any additional context that the jury may benefit from to understand the sample. It is highly recommended that applicants complete these sections. We cannot stress how much value this provides jurors to appreciate and understand the works shown. We suggest that you do not use this section as a credit line. Submittable cannot impose a word limit, but please restrict yourself to no more than 150 words per work sample.
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ABOUT NARRATIVE STATEMENTS

Artist Statement	The artist statement is your opportunity to explain your artistic concerns, creative intentions, and process to jurors who may not have any familiarity with your work. Carefully consider which work samples you are submitting and review your artist statement for continuity in ideas. We suggest using the first person when writing your statement; having someone else read it can be especially helpful in getting feedback prior to submission. You have 300 words to use and we encourage using them all. A common critique from jurors is that artist statements propose questions or ideas that are not evident in the work samples, or vice versa.
Impact	Through the impact statement, you will aid the jurors' assessments of the reverberations of this award on your life and practice. What makes this a pivotal moment for you to receive the Joan Mitchell Fellowship? Think thoroughly about the implications of both the funding and the national recognition offered by this award as you are writing. Remember that this is not a project-based award; while you might be considering a new project or phase of your career, sometimes only focusing on one particular plan may not tell the jurors enough about what you might accomplish over time. This is also not a need-based grant, but it does provide funding over a five-year period and that consistent income can be extremely impactful. In this statement, you might reflect on anything related to your professional and/or personal goals, interests, or dreams that might be impacted by receiving this award. We recommend using the maximum space you have for this statement, up to 300 words.
Fellowship Engagement	In your Fellowship engagement statement, use the space provided to focus on how being part of the national artists cohort fostered through the Fellowship would make an impression on you and your artistic practice. Please explain to the jurors why this opportunity is one that would be influential to you in this particular moment. Consider the benefits of the learning opportunities offered through the program, covering topics including, but not limited to, self-advocacy, finance, and legacy planning. Be sure to also address what your potential contributions to this artist

	community could be, and what about belonging to a group of peers that learns together and from one another you feel would be most beneficial or impactful for you. We recommend using all 300 words for this statement.
No Supplemental Materials	Jurors will be asked not to review your website or social media accounts, so be sure to address anything you feel is timely, essential, or important within your work samples and written statements.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

Selecting Work Samples	<p>We encourage you to submit completed work that conveys your current artistic vision and what you are passionate about. Works in progress are generally not as useful to the jury in determining or understanding an artist's current practice as completed work, but should you choose to include some, we highly encourage using the metadata to describe the work and the reason you chose to include it. Likewise, exhibition shots are best used to show scale or how work is installed, but may not always be the best way of showing your work. Staff will request replacements for exhibition shots that show multiple works not included within the ten work samples.</p> <p>Making a decision between submitting a singular body of work or multiple bodies of work is a highly personal decision. If you have had a long career, you might consider submitting work that spans beyond the recommended five years, so as to demonstrate the larger arc of threads of inquiry and commitment to your practice. Jurors often want to understand the range of an artist's work, and sometimes submitting a single body of work may not demonstrate fully how you speak about your practice, and the ideas and questions you propose in your artist statement.</p> <p>Jurors will review applications and work samples in the order that they are submitted, solely on laptops, through Submittable's image viewing function. Having high resolution images is highly recommended so that jurors are able to zoom in to view detail that might not be visible from a distance.</p>
Personal vs. Professional	<p>This award is designed to support artists at any stage of their career; feel free to address where you feel you are in your career and why it is important to you to receive this support. We recognize artists as full people who have lives that are intertwined with AND separate from the artistic practice. Be sure to provide well-rounded responses in your narrative statements, integrating the personal and professional circumstances that are relevant to how this award would impact your life. We often see that incorrect assumptions about financial or personal circumstances (particularly related to recognition or career stage) can impact a jury's thought process. Keep in</p>

	mind that while the jurors may recognize your name or your work, they are not always privy to all of your circumstances.
Submit Early	We recommend that you not wait until the day of the deadline to upload materials. Depending on internet speeds and file size, image uploads can take a long time and could potentially delay the submission of your application.
Check and Double Check	We suggest having someone you trust and who understands your work and artistic vision review your application for thoroughness, completeness, and comprehension before you submit. You may also want to consider asking someone who is not an artist to review your application and be sure that you are using language that is concise, understandable, and jargon-free. Submission of your application is final.

APPLICATION LOGISTICS

Accessing Application	<p>We use the online platform Submittable to accept applications. You will need to use the link included in your invitation email to access the application for the first time. Once you have started your application, you can log into your account and find your application under "Submissions". If you do not have a free Submittable account, you will need to create one prior to accessing the application: https://manager.submittable.com/signup.</p> <p>The application can be saved and returned to as often as needed before the deadline and won't be reviewed until submitted. Make sure to click the "save draft" button at the bottom of the application every once in a while, and always prior to closing the tab or window.</p>
Staff Contact	JMF staff will be in contact with you if there are any issues with the application or if edits are required. Staff has the ability to edit applications if we find something that does not follow guidelines; for instance, external links in your narrative statements or work sample metadata, can be removed on your behalf. Should this occur, Submittable will send you an email with the update so you can confirm that the intent of your application has not changed.
Access Needs	If you have specific access needs for submitting your application, or if using Submittable is not ideal for you, please contact Sarah Dhobhany, Artist Programs Associate, for assistance at sdhobhany@joanmitchellfoundation.org . We do not want anyone to be deterred from applying because of online or any other access needs.

Reuse Of Application	If you have been nominated in the last 3 years and would like to use a previous application for your submission, please contact Sarah Dhobhany, Artist Programs Associate, at sdhobhany@joanmitchellfoundation.org .
Submittable Issues	If there is an error within your application or if you are having difficulties with Submittable, please contact Sarah Dhobhany, Artist Programs Associate, at sdhobhany@joanmitchellfoundation.org .
Sharing Nomination	This information is not confidential; however, we ask that you not share your nomination publicly until the awards have been announced. The Foundation plans to announce the 2026 Fellows in August 2026. Feel free to list your nomination on your resume once the awards have been announced.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

If all of the information above has not answered your questions, or has created more, or if for any reason you are hesitating to apply, please contact us! You can reach Lilia Sterling, Artist Programs Manager, Grants, at lsterling@joanmitchellfoundation.org or Sarah Dhobhany, Artist Programs Associate, at sdhobhany@joanmitchellfoundation.org.