



Biomimicry Challenge

Summer Artist Residency Description

Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts sponsored by Northern Trust
Deadline: Jan. 20, 2017 | 5 p.m. | Free Application



Are you an artist in need of a free air-conditioned studio space for the summer? Do you need to get out of your studio and socialize with other people? Is your artwork inspired by nature/life sciences? This artist residency may be right for you.

What is Biomimicry? Biomimicry is an exciting field that seeks to emulate nature to create sustainable solutions to human problems. Today, biomimicry is used by professionals such as scientists, engineers, architects, designers and business people to create things like new and/or improved products, manufacturing processes and design standards. Well known examples of biomimicry include Velcro (inspired by plant burr hooks) and solar cells (inspired by photosynthesizing plants). For more information about biomimicry go to: <http://biomimicry.asu.edu/>

The Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts sponsored by Northern Trust is collaborating with the Biomimicry Center and LeRoy Erying Center for Solid State Science at Arizona State University to coordinate a summer 2017 exhibition that explores biomimicry solutions and nature-inspired contemporary art.

About the Artist Residency: Arizona-based visual artists may apply for use of one of three studio spaces inside the Gallery for ten weeks (May 19-July 28) during the exhibition. Artists will be selected by a jury panel. Selected artists will be eligible for a stipend up to \$1,750. Residency responsibilities include:

- 1) Creating a new “biomimicry” inspired artwork onsite at the Gallery at TCA.
- 2) Answering questions from visitors in the Gallery.
- 3) Teaching a Saturday hands-on art workshop for families.
- 4) Display previous nature-inspired work in the exhibition.

Bonus Feature: Selected artists will be paired with an ASU graduate student or faculty member for in-depth mentoring in biomimicry and the life sciences specific to the theme/subject matter of the new artwork. For example, if an artist chose to create a new piece based on butterflies, then that artist would be paired with an expert on insects and biomimicry. Selected artists will also have the opportunity for one-on-one discussion with ASU Biomimicry Center Co-Director Prasad Boradkar.

About the Challenge: We are challenging artists to think beyond creating work that is inspired by nature. We are looking for proposals that “emulate nature to solve human challenges.” During the residency, artists will work in the Gallery studio to create a new single artwork, a series of artworks and/or a site specific installation. Visitors will be able to watch the progression of artworks through the summer.

Application Process: Artists are asked to apply by submitting examples of prior work, a proposal letter and professional references. (The application process is free. A jury panel of biomimicry and visual art experts will review applications and select up to three artists. Application materials include:

- Digital images of five artworks completed within the last two years to show level of quality, craftsmanship and innovation of prior work. + Image list with thumbnail images and short descriptions about work.
- Two letters of recommendation from arts professionals speaking to the artist’s reliability to complete contracted work.
- Short biography statement and an artist statement.
- Proposal letter describing individual interest in nature, life sciences and/or biomimicry. Please include a brief description about ideas for creating new artwork/s. Planning sketches and/or digital renderings are encouraged.

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