



## Tito's Prize Open Call Guidelines

### General Information

The Tito's Prize is a \$15,000 award for one Austin-based artist. The Tito's Prize is funded by a generous gift from [Tito's Handmade Vodka](#) and facilitated by Big Medium. The award includes a solo exhibition during the 2018 [East Austin Studio Tour](#) in the [Big Medium Gallery](#) at [Canopy](#).

### Open Call Dates

April 24 - May 31, 2018

### Exhibition Dates

October 19 - November 18, 2018

### Curators

The Curatorial Panel includes **Andrea Mellard**, *Director of Public Programs and Community Engagement for The Contemporary Austin*; **Dennis Nance**, *Curator for the Galveston Arts Center and artist*; and **Veronica Roberts**, *Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Blanton Museum*. The three member panel will unanimously select the prize-winning artist.

**Andrea Mellard** is the Director of Public Programs and Community Engagement for The Contemporary Austin. She curates programming and curates for the museum's two distinct sites—one urban and the other natural—to bring audiences together to investigate art. Recent performance-based projects and exhibitions she organized bring the work of Charles Atlas, Janine Antoni & Stephen Petronio, Sanford Biggers, Nick Cave, Ragnar Kjartansson, Mark Mothersbaugh, and Lucky Dragons to Austin. Prior to the merger that created The Contemporary Austin, Mellard curated exhibitions and public programs for the Austin Museum of Art, working primarily with local and regional artists since 2004. The Crit Group program she has co-lead for five years provides group critique, professional development, and community building for Austin artists. She has over 17 years of museum experience and a M.A. in American Studies from The University of Texas inflects her interdisciplinary approach to contemporary culture. She aims to connect people with art, ideas, and each other.

**Dennis Nance** is an artist and curator from Houston, TX. He was appointed as Curator for the Galveston Arts Center in 2016. From 2007 to 2016, Nance was Exhibitions & Programming Director for Lawndale Art Center in Houston, where he worked extensively with local and regional artists through over 20 exhibitions annually and the Lawndale Artist Studio Program. He currently serves on the Artist Advisory Board for DiverseWorks. Nance is a practicing artist and was awarded an Individual Artist Grant from the Houston Arts Alliance and an Idea Fund Award, administered through Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks Artspace and Project Row Houses and funded by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, in 2015. He has exhibited his work at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, The Brandon,

BOX13 ArtSpace and the Menil Collection bookstore. He received his BA from Austin College in Sherman, TX with a concentration in Fine Arts and French.

**Veronica Roberts** is curator of modern and contemporary art at the Blanton Museum. Her recent major exhibitions at the Blanton include *Nina Katchadourian: Curiouser* (2017) and *Converging Lines: Eva Hesse and Sol LeWitt* (2015). She is currently working on an exhibition with Vincent Valdez and in the research phase of a major thematic exhibition. Prior to joining the Blanton in 2013, she worked for numerous art museums, including The Museum of Modern Art, Indianapolis Museum of Art, and Whitney Museum of American Art. She received her MA in Art History from UC Santa Barbara and her BA in Art History from Williams College.

## **Criteria**

Work entered into the Tito's Prize Open Call does not need to adhere to any thematic, aesthetic, or conceptual constraints. The work does not need not relate to either Big Medium's or Tito's Handmade Vodka's brand, and the work will not be used on the label or other packaging of Tito's Handmade Vodka.

The curators will review applicants on the strength of work, the artist's background, and with the exhibition in the Big Medium gallery in mind. The curators will also strongly consider artists for whom this award would help grow their artistic career and support their life in Austin.

## **Eligibility**

The Tito's Prize is open to all artists living and working in Austin, Texas. For this purpose, Austin is defined as the area contained within the ten city council districts. Artists working in any media and at any stage in their career are eligible.

In the case of work which may have not been physically realized at the time you apply, you may provide documentation describing the work.

## **Authorship and Ownership**

By entering a work, you represent that you are its author and that you either own or are part of a collaborative group that co-owns the work.

## **When To Enter**

Applications will be accepted online at [bigmedium.org/titosprize.html](http://bigmedium.org/titosprize.html) April 24 through May 31, 2018. There will be no extension or exception.

## **How To Enter**

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.

To begin the application process, you will be required to create a user account. 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 the 'Apply' when you have finalized your application. ***Applications not submitted by 11:59 pm on May 31, 2018 will not be accepted.***

### **Uploading Your Information**

Below is detailed information on the required fields.

#### **Required Information**

- Artist Name
- Phone Number
- Email
- Website
- Address — Applicants must be Austin residents. We are defining Austin as the area contained within the 10 city council districts.
- Proof of Residence — Please upload proof of residence. Acceptable documents include:
  - Current deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage statement
  - Current homeowners' or renters' insurance policy or statement
  - Electric, water, natural gas, satellite television, cable television, or non-cellular telephone statement dated within 90 days of April 1st, 2018
  - Valid voter registration card
  - Current automobile insurance policy or statement
  - Preprinted paycheck or pay stub dated within 90 days of April 1st, 2018
  - Mail from a federal, state, county, or city government dated within 90 days of April 1st, 2018
  - Current documents issued by the US Military indicating residential address
- Artist Statement — Acceptable formats are: doc, pdf, rtf, txt
- CV — Acceptable formats are: doc, pdf, rtf, txt
- Artwork Documentation
  - You may upload up to ten (10) pieces of documentation of relevant work. This may include still images, video, or audio pieces. Acceptable formats are: jpg, tiff, gif, mp4, avi, mov, mp3, wav, doc, txt, pdf
  - Image resolution should be large enough for the curators to view the work clearly on a computer.
  - Name image files accordingly: First Name\_Last Name\_Image # (e.g.: hollis\_baxter\_1.jpg.)
  - For each image, provide the pictured artwork's title, dimensions, medium, and year

### **Notification of Acceptance**

Final notification of the curators' artist selections will be sent to all artists via email on June 27, 2018.

### **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 distributed via the websites and social media channels of Big Medium 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.

## **Questions?**

We are happy to hear from you, but please read these guidelines carefully before contacting us with a question. You may direct questions to [info@bigmedium.org](mailto:info@bigmedium.org).

## **About Tito's Handmade Vodka**

Tito's Handmade Vodka is America's Original Craft Vodka. In 1997, Bert "Tito" Beveridge, now a 50-something geophysicist, obtained the first legal permit to distill in Texas and created Tito's Handmade Vodka. Tito distills his corn-based vodka using old-fashioned copper pot stills and the vodka is naturally Gluten-Free. Tito's Handmade Vodka has won the prestigious Double Gold Unanimous Judge's Choice at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition, besting 72 of the world's premier vodka brands. Tito's continues to receive critical acclaim for its impeccably pure taste, affordability and brand growth. Tito's Handmade Vodka is distilled and bottled by Fifth Generation Inc. in Austin, Texas, and is available in Liter, 1.75L, 750ml, 375ml, 200ml and 50ml sizes. For more information, visit [www.titosvodka.com](http://www.titosvodka.com).

## **About Big Medium**

Big Medium is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting and promoting contemporary art in Texas. Big Medium produces the East Austin Studio Tour, the West Austin Studio Tour, the Texas Biennial, and present innovative exhibitions throughout the year. Big Medium provides affordable studio space to artists, and partners with various organizations in Texas to help foster the arts and facilitate an inclusive cultural dialogue between artists and their communities.