

ARIZONA BIENNIAL 2026

Prospectus

Exhibition dates: May 22–September 27, 2026
Opening Reception: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Artists are to submit work that investigates the intersections of art and place or heritage—however those themes resonate in their practice.

The Arizona Biennial 2026, the next iteration of the oldest running juried exhibition in the state, will be held May 22 – September 27, 2026 at the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block. Arizona state residents over 18 years of age working in any media are welcome to submit artwork(s) to be considered.

The works chosen for the exhibition will be selected entirely from digital images or video submissions by guest juror Julie Rodrigues Widholm, Executive Director of the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) at UC Berkeley.

GUEST JUROR JULIE RODRIGUES WIDHOLM

Julie Rodrigues Widholm is a trailblazing cultural leader and advocate for inclusivity in the arts. As executive director of the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) at UC Berkeley, she shapes the institution's strategic and artistic vision, leveraging art and film to inspire cultural transformation. Her leadership focuses on innovative programming, groundbreaking exhibitions, and expanding access to diverse audiences.

Previously, Rodrigues Widholm served as director and chief curator at DePaul Art Museum (2015–2020), where she launched the Latinx Art Initiative to amplify the voices of U.S.-based artists of Latin American descent. Key exhibitions under her direction included *LatinXAmerica*; Barbara Jones-Hogu: *Resist, Relate, Unite*; and Brendan Fernandes: *As One*, among others.

During her tenure as curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Chicago (1999–2015), she focused on underrepresented voices, curating notable exhibitions such as *Escultura Social: A New Generation of Art from Mexico City*; Doris Salcedo; *Unbound: Contemporary Art After Frida Kahlo*; and Rashid Johnson: *Message to Our Folks*. Her work has been featured at leading institutions, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Pérez Art Museum Miami.

Named Chicagoan of the Year in Museums by the Chicago Tribune in 2019, Rodrigues Widholm is a recognized thought leader. She has held academic roles as a Senior Fellow and advisor at SAIC and was a 2019 Getty Leadership Institute Fellow. She holds a BA in Art History and Political Science and an MA in Art History, Theory, and Criticism, reflecting her deep commitment to advancing the arts globally.

ELIGIBILITY

Arizona Biennial 2026 is open to artists 18 years and older currently residing in Arizona, working in all media and themes. All works must be original and completed within the last two (2) years. Accepted works may not be withdrawn by the artist prior to the close of the exhibition. Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block staff and members of the Board of Trustees are not eligible to enter. Each artist may submit one (1) application with a maximum of three (3) artworks with accompanying descriptions.

The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block reserves the right to exclude from the exhibition any work(s) deemed to be inappropriate due to inadequate framing/mounting, improper packing for return shipping, or for security or public safety reasons. The Museum will monitor works throughout the exhibition and make certain they are cleaned and operating daily, but beyond those standards, works must be maintenance free.

ENTRY INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

All entries and fees will be submitted digitally through the TMA website at: TucsonMuseumofArt.org/AZB2026Entry

Submission materials include:

- Images of the artworks (jpg/jpeg format, maximum file size: 128 MB each)
- Artist resume/CV (pdf format)
- Artist statement not to exceed 100 words (pdf format)
- Optional: artwork descriptions per submission not to exceed 100 words each (pdf format)

ENTRY FEE

\$50 General (includes a 20% off TMA membership discount code to use to join the Museum)

\$25 Student, veteran, active military, SNAP, WIC, Tribal ID or CIB

Entry fees are non-refundable.

Payment of entry fees will be processed through the Museum's website.

For questions about the online form or payments, contact Justin Germain at jgermain@tucsonmuseumofart.org

DEADLINE

January 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Late entries and/or emailed submissions will not be accepted.

SUBMISSION SPECIFICATIONS

- Each artist may submit a maximum of three (3) works.
- Each artwork must investigate the intersections of art and place or heritage—however those themes resonate in their practice.
- Images must be in jpg/jpeg format, 128 MB max file size each. A maximum of three (3) images may be submitted for each work.
- Image(s) of the artwork should be labeled with the artist's last name and artwork title. (ex. "Morris – Blue Lake").
- Proposals for installations will be considered. For such proposals, artists should submit a description of the project no longer than 100 words along with any support materials, such as plans, sketches, drawings, illustrations, videos, and images of prior versions of the installation. Artists creating installations must be prepared to install their own work and bring/use their own tools and materials.

DISPLAY SPECIFICATIONS

- All wall-hung work must be framed and/or equipped with ready-to-hang wire, cleats, or loop hanging devices. The Museum is not responsible for glass breakage.
- Two-dimensional (framed or flat) works may not exceed 40 pounds in weight and 120 inches (10 feet) in any one direction unless it is modular.
- Three-dimensional (sculpture or installation) works may not exceed 150 pounds in weight, and dimensions may not exceed 120 inches (10 feet) in any one direction unless it is modular.
- Equipment for video and digital media works must be provided by the artist.

PUBLICITY

The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block reserves the right to photograph all exhibited works and to use reproductions for publicity and/or educational purposes.

INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

Entrants are responsible for all deliveries, pickups, shipping arrangements, and payments, including insurance during transit. The Museum will not accept entries that are damaged during shipment, nor is the Museum financially responsible for damage incurred during transit. The Museum will exercise professional care in handling accepted artwork. Works delivered in good condition will be insured by the Museum from time of delivery until the pickup deadline.

SHIPPING AND RECEIVING

The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block retains the right to refuse any entry which is too fragile, poorly packed, delivered late, not complete, damaged, varies significantly from the digital image, or is, in the opinion of Museum staff, unsafe to exhibit.

All shipped works must be sent in sturdy, reusable containers, including a pre-paid return shipping label.

Works must be exhibition-ready, including appropriate framing and wiring. Individual works will be installed by the Museum staff; installation artists must be prepared to install their own work. Special installation hardware or instructions must be provided by the artist and delivered with the artwork.

All accepted work must be delivered to Tucson Museum of Art's main lobby on May 14-15, 2026 between 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Shipped entries must arrive PREPAID by 4:00 pm, Friday, May 15, 2026.

PICKUP OF ARTWORK

All artworks must be picked up at the close of the exhibition. The date for pickup of artwork is September 28, 2026 between 10:00 am–4:00 pm. The Museum will not be responsible for works left after the pickup deadline and will charge a \$10 per day storage fee. If an artist sends a representative to pick up their work, the Museum must be notified in advance, and the representative must present a signed document authorizing the pickup.

AGREEMENT

Submitting an entry constitutes agreement with all conditions of this prospectus.

Calendar

January 30, 2026, 5:00pm	Submission Deadline. Late entries will not be accepted.
February 13-March 6, 2026	Guest Juror selects works from submissions
March 9-13, 2026	Notification of results emailed
May 14-15, 2026	Works accepted at Tucson Museum of Art lobby from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
May 15, 2026	Shipped entries must arrive to Museum, PREPAID, by 4:00 pm
May 21, 2026	Opening Reception Lecture/Panel Discussion with Guest Juror
May 22, 2026	First day open to the public
September 27, 2026	Last day of the exhibition
September 28, 2026	Artist pick up all works, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
October 5-9, 2026	Shipped works prepared for return shipping