



May 1, 2023

Fellows of Contemporary Art is an independent non-profit organization that supports California Artists. We are pleased to offer an Open Call for 2024 Exhibition Proposals as part of FOCA's Curators Lab program.



In the depth of the mouth inhabits the light that takes shape, installation view, 2023.
Photo by Ian Byers-Gamber.

Each year FOCA's Curators Lab presents a series of three exhibitions by emerging California curators, that highlight creative ideas in the form of group exhibitions by emerging and mid-career California artists.

Since our initial exhibition in 2007, the Curators Lab has presented 38 exhibitions that featured works and performances of 238 artists. Each exhibition involves a public event and documentation.



Tabernacle, Curator Matthew Lax, April 2023 (opening reception)

Proposals are selected by a committee of FOCA members, and the winning curators are granted a budget of \$3,000 to organize, document and present an exhibition.

The grants for exhibitions give the curators, many of whom are artists themselves, an opportunity to

- Learn about exhibition processes
- Have a space to realize their ideas in an exhibition format
- Establish a forum for the artists to feature their work.

The Curators Lab program also establishes a curator collaboration with FOCA.

The exhibitions take place in the FOCA office/gallery space located in Chinatown, 970 North Broadway, Suite 208, Los Angeles, CA.

Proposal Essentials

Deadline for Proposal Submission is July 17, 2023

Proposals will be reviewed by the Curators Lab Committee, which will select the Award finalists. Finalists will be asked to present their proposals in person or by Zoom to the Committee on **Saturday August 19, 2023.**

Please save this date, as it will be the only presentation opportunity.

From the presentation the FOCA Committee will choose three award recipients for the 2024 exhibitions. **We recommend group exhibitions of three to five artists.** The word “Emerging Curator” is loosely defined and may include California curators who are artists, writers or others who conceive of and organize an exhibition. Artists in the proposed exhibition must be practicing in California, and can be emerging or in their mid-careers.

Please include the following in your proposal:

1. Your **name, contact phone, email, mailing address**, and **website** if available.
2. A **one-page narrative** expressing your curatorial concept.
3. A **brief paragraph about yourself**.
4. **Information about the proposed artists** (names, email addresses and websites, if available) and information and images of the works proposed. ALL artists must be California artists).
5. An “**event**” you would plan during the exhibition, which can be a panel discussion, performance or workshop related to your exhibition concept. We highly encourage you to speak at the exhibition opening as to your exhibition concept and introduce the artists. We encourage all artists to be present at the opening.
6. **BUDGET:** Outline how you would use the budget of \$3,000. It is the total award, except for funding for reception and event refreshments. This award must cover all fees and expenses, including shipping, delivery, installation, rentals of equipment, signage, parking and catalogue*

*The catalogue design is of your choosing, and recently curators have added, a virtual gallery or website. FOCA requests seven catalogs for our archives. Two copies are complimentary, and five copies will be purchased at your wholesale “cost,” separate from your award budget.

Proposal materials will be accepted in the following formats:

PDF format, electronically by email to curatorslab@focala.org.

Once your proposal is received you will receive a confirmation email from FOCA. Because of our time schedule, no submissions can be considered if received after **July 17, 2023**.

After the selection process, you will receive a response from the Curators Lab Chair, but we do not discuss reasons for rejecting or accepting exhibitions proposals.

If you have any questions please email Cara Megan Lewis Curators Lab Chair and Lynn Deegan Curators Lab Co-Chair at curatorslab@focala.org, or call us at the FOCA office (213) 808-1008.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Curators Lab
The Fellows of Contemporary Art

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