



Frequently asked questions for the CIBC C² Art Program

What is the CIBC C² Art Program?

CIBC is proud to present the C² Art Program (C² Art), a Canadian national art competition. Each year, we'll award 2 early-career artists with the opportunity and funding to create and curate a body of work. Artists' work will be displayed in a solo exhibition inside our new headquarters, CIBC Square South Tower at 81 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario.

C² Art assists emerging Canadian artists seeking financial support and exhibition opportunities to help launch their practice. By empowering artists, we enrich the cultural landscape, support the diversity of Canada and encourage new ideas and ways of thinking.

A judging committee including members of CIBC and the art community will select 2 winners based on the quality of their submissions.

We'll award each of the 2 winners \$25,000, paid out over Phase 1 and Phase 2 (6 months). During this time, each winner will create a body of work and curate it in a solo exhibition in one of the gallery spaces at CIBC Square. The CIBC art team will collaborate with each artist throughout this process, funding all exhibition materials including framing, plinths, shipping and installation.

Finalists will also be invited on an all-expenses paid trip to Toronto to attend an exhibition opening reception at CIBC Square.

The exhibitions will be on display at CIBC Square for 3 months, in a space open to clients, visitors and employees. All works will be returned to finalists at the end of the exhibition period.

Who is eligible for the program?

You must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the program:

- Be a legal resident of Canada who has reached the age of majority in your province or territory of residence at time of application
- Be physically present in Canada during the artwork creation phase of the award
- Have between 2 to 10 years' of experience as a professional artist, with recent and consistent past exhibition history or a body of work
- Be able to dedicate your time and resources to the program for the 6-month creation and curation period
- Be able and willing to connect virtually and in-person for the duration of the program

Artists from across Canada are eligible to apply

Individuals who are enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program or similar post-secondary program, or who may still be enrolled in post-secondary studies during the program period, are not eligible.

Officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives of CIBC, any program judges, and each of their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies and members of the immediate families (defined as parents, siblings, children and spouses, regardless of where they live) or households (whether or not the household members are related) are not eligible.

What kind of art is eligible?

Based on the nature of the exhibition galleries at CIBC Square, only certain types of artwork can be displayed in the space. Since the exhibition galleries also act as hallways, size limitations affect which artwork can be displayed. Artwork must meet the requirements for 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional work.

Types of art eligible:

- 2-dimensional work including drawings, prints, photography, paintings, mixed media
- 3-dimensional work including stone, metals, glass, plastics, textiles, wood, ceramic, natural materials, beadwork.
- Artwork must be wall-mountable or able to be displayed on pedestals or plinths.
- Unfortunately, we're unable to accept digital artwork (screen-based work), projected artwork, or non-fungible tokens (NFTs) at this time.

How are the finalists chosen?

The judging committee, which includes members of the art community and CIBC, will choose 2 winners. There are 2 rounds in the judging process:

Round 1

The selection committee will review the submissions received during the competition period. The committee will assess submissions using the following criteria:

- **Eligibility:** Whether the applicant has met all technical submission and eligibility requirements and their submitted art samples fall under the qualifying types of art for the program.
- **Technique:** The technical aspects of the work, including the method of execution and handling of material to achieve the desired result.
- **Aesthetics:** The visual appearance of the work, the stylistic choices and how the physical form relates to and engages with the concepts driving the work.
- **Concept:** The ideas, thoughts and/or concerns behind the work, how these ideas are interpreted through the technique and aesthetic and how they engage with broader society, culture, issues, etc.
- **Innovation:** How the work presents an interesting and/or varied perspective or technique.

Round 2

The Judging Committee will compose a series of questions which each of the top 10 finalists selected during Round 1 will respond to in video format. The committee will assess the submissions using the set criteria. The 2 artists that receive the most points will be selected as the winners.

Winners will be contacted shortly after the judging process is completed.

What are the important dates and deadlines for the program?

The competition period

The "competition period" refers to when the call for submissions opens and closes, the judging process and the selection of the two winners.

- **Submissions open:** 12:00:01 am EST, December 16, 2024
- **Submissions close:** 11:59 pm EST, January 15, 2025

The selection process will take place from January to March, and the two winners will be contacted by **May 2, 2025**.

The program period

The “program period” refers to the period during which the artists create the body of work, curate their exhibition, the exhibition opening reception during the all-expenses paid trip to Toronto, and the duration of the exhibition.

- **Artwork creation period: May 28, 2025, to September 30, 2025**
 - During this time, the two winners will create a series of works that will be displayed in the gallery spaces.
- **Deadline for art to be completed: September 30, 2025**
 - During the month of September, CIBC will fund and arrange for the work to be shipped to Toronto and prepared for exhibition - including frames, hardware, plinths and any other display materials. Artists will collaborate with CIBC to curate their exhibition.

The exhibition opening receptions will be held at CIBC Square South Tower in the month of October. Details will be finalized closer to the date.

CIBC will have regular touchpoints with the artists throughout the creation and curation period, and the \$25,000 award will be released in segments on a bi-weekly basis.

The winners' art will be on exhibition until from **October 2025 to January 2026**, after which time CIBC will make arrangements with the artists to ship their work back to them.

How do I apply?

Prepare the required materials and complete the [program submission form \(PDF, 47 KB\)](#).

Send your submission as an email, with all materials attached, before 11:59pm on January 15, 2025. Use the subject line “[Artist’s full name] – C2 Art Submission” and send to Mailbox.C2art@cibc.com.

Limit of one submission per person and per email address. There is no purchase or payment necessary to enter the competition.

The following materials are required in order to be considered an eligible submission:

- **Submission Form**
- Artist statement: 250 words maximum, size 12 font, PDF format
- Exhibition proposal: 250 words maximum, size 12 font, PDF format
 - Provide a brief overview of your initial ideas, unifying themes and your planned art medium(s) for your exhibition
 - Artist statement and exhibition proposal cannot exceed 250 words each.
- **Artist’s CV:** PDF format

- **Five (5) sample images and/or video of previous work**
 - Images must be in JPEG format
 - Images cannot exceed 3 MB each
 - Video must be in MP4, MOV, WMV or AVI format
 - Video cannot exceed 3 MB each OR applicants can include a Vimeo link in body of email
 - Image/video files should follow the naming convention Artist last name_Title_Medium
 - Total email size including all attachments cannot exceed 25 MB

Sample images and/or video of previous work will be used for judging purposes only. Samples should demonstrate an overview of your artistic practice, concepts and style, as well as represent or relate to the body of work you plan to create for the program.

Limit of one submission per person and per email address. There is no purchase or payment necessary to enter the competition.