

## NEWS FROM THE VERMONT PRIZE

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# Four contemporary art organizations team up to offer \$5,000 prize for Vermont visual artists



### Images available for download:

Image 1 ([download](#)) - The Vermont Prize Logo

Image 2 ([download](#)) - **Caption:** Inaugural guest juror Kelly Baum, the Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsky Curator of Contemporary Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Four of Vermont’s leading contemporary art institutions have launched [The Vermont Prize](#), a new endeavor to “celebrate and support the best visual art being made in Vermont today.” The Vermont Prize is a collaborative initiative of the [Brattleboro Museum & Art Center \(BMAC\)](#), [Burlington City Arts \(BCA\)](#), the [Hall Art Foundation](#), and [The Current](#) (formerly the Helen Day Art Center).

“Although Vermont is a small state, there is an astonishing variety of exceptional visual art being created by Vermonters today,” BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld said. “Our hope is that this initiative will bring about greater recognition and appreciation of this particular thread in Vermont’s rich cultural fabric.”

The Vermont Prize will be awarded to one artist annually. The winner will receive \$5,000, and their work will be showcased and archived at [vermontprize.org](#) and on social media. Applications will be accepted from visual artists currently living and working in Vermont. The Vermont Prize is open to individuals as well as collaborating artists. Artists working in any visual medium are welcome to apply. There is no application fee. The application deadline is March 31, 2022.

Each year, the Vermont Prize will be juried by a team consisting of one representative from each of the four partner organizations, as well as a fifth independent and unaffiliated juror. The inaugural independent juror is Kelly Baum, the Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsky Curator of Contemporary Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Baum has held curatorial positions at the Princeton University Art Museum, the Blanton Museum of Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The other 2022 jurors are BMAC Director of Exhibitions Sarah Freeman, BCA Curator and Director of Exhibitions Heather Ferrell, Hall Art Foundation Director Maryse Brand, and The Current Executive Director Rachel Moore.

The winner will be selected on the basis of artistic excellence, regardless of career stage, and will be announced on June 30, 2022.

“Contemporary visual artists are increasingly coming to or staying in Vermont to work,” Hall Art Foundation Director Maryse Brand said. “These artists are creating innovative, beautiful, challenging, and exciting artwork, worthy of being appreciated within Vermont and also on a national level. We are excited to celebrate and support their work while also expanding on popular ideas of what constitutes Vermont art.”

“This collaborative initiative provides an opportunity to share the high caliber work that comes out of Vermont and define our position within the contemporary art world,” The Current Executive Director Rachel Moore said.

Visit [vermontprize.org](http://vermontprize.org) for more information or to apply.

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### **About the Four Partner Organizations**

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022, the [Brattleboro Museum & Art Center](#) is a non-collecting contemporary art museum focused on the art of our time. An anchor of southern Vermont’s vibrant cultural life, BMAC brings notable art and artists to Brattleboro and provides a platform for its region’s many artistic riches. BMAC presents 15-20 exhibitions annually, complemented by 60-70 public programs and extensive educational offerings developed in partnership with area schools and service organizations.

For over 30 years, [Burlington City Arts \(BCA\)](#) has helped cement Burlington, Vermont’s reputation as one of America’s most livable cities for the arts. BCA’s physical locations include the BCA Center, a three-level, year-round exhibition space, as well as BCA Studios, which hosts art classes, camps, and open studio hours in our state-of-the-art facilities. BCA also produces city-wide festivals, events, concerts, films, artist markets, and more.

Founded in 2007, the [Hall Art Foundation](#) makes available postwar and contemporary art works from its own collection and that of Andrew and Christine Hall for the enjoyment and education of the public. In Reading, Vermont, its campus of converted galleries, situated on a former dairy farm, consists of a 19th-century stone farmhouse, three barns, as well as a reception center and cafe. The property’s five historic buildings make up approximately 6,000 square feet of museum-quality exhibition space, and are surrounded by approximately 400 acres of pastures, hayfields and extensive woodland. Outdoor sculptures by world-renowned artists are installed throughout the grounds.

[The Current](#), a center for contemporary art located in Stowe, Vermont, was established in 1981 as Helen Day Art Center with a mission to enhance the human experience through the visual arts. The Current produces major exhibitions featuring a range of artists representing diverse geographies and career stages. Exhibitions are accompanied by a robust interpretive learning program including lectures, panels, and film screenings free to the public. The Current provides progressive arts education programs for all ages, with year-round classes, tours, workshops, and other interactive programs.