

S P E C T O R C R A F T P R I Z E

The Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists 2025-2026 Rules of Entry

ABOUT THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

The Spector Craft Prize (the “Prize”) is an annual initiative launched in 2025 to champion excellence in American craft. Founded by Abigail Klem Spector and Warren Spector through the Spector Family Foundation, the program supports craft artists at pivotal moments in their careers through awards, mentorship, and community-building.

In an era dominated by rapid technological advancement, the Spector Craft Prize stands as a vital counterbalance by preserving material connections in an increasingly virtual world, supporting creative expression amid declining public funding for arts education, and reconnecting makers and the public to our shared heritage of craft.

By championing craft artists at pivotal moments in their careers, the Spector Family Foundation aims to strengthen the role of craft in contemporary American culture.

AIM OF THE PRIZE

The Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists seeks to identify and support exceptional emerging craft artists whose work demonstrates technical mastery, innovative vision, and deep engagement with American culture. The Prize aims to recognize artists who show significant potential for contributing to the field and who would benefit from the comprehensive support provided by the program.

Selected artists represent the future of American craft and demonstrate a commitment to strengthening craft's role in contemporary American culture through their practice, community engagement, and artistic vision.

PRIZE BENEFITS

Up to five artists will be selected annually to receive comprehensive support, including:

- \$10,000 financial award to support their artistic practice
- Participation in the Spector Craft Summit, including workshops, seminars, and networking sessions
- Travel and accommodation costs covered for the Spector Craft Summit and awards ceremony
- Recognition across our platforms
- Mentorship opportunities with established craft artists and curators
- Peer networking sessions with fellow emerging artists
- Integration into a vital network of American craft professionals

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must:

- Be within the first 7 years of commencing their professional craft practice
- Be residents or citizens of the U.S.*
- Be 21 years of age or older at the time of application
- Submit high-resolution images of an artistic work created within the last 3 years (further detail below)
- Be the sole creator of the submitted work
- Self-identify as an "emerging" craft artist who would benefit from the Spector Craft Prize program

Provided they meet the requirements above, eligible artists may include those who:

- Are in their final year or have recently graduated from any undergraduate program (BA, BFA, etc.)
- Are currently in or have recently graduated from any graduate program (MA, MFA, PhD, etc.)
- Have completed non-accredited or alternative craft learning programs
- Have developed their practice independently or are self-taught
- Have had a break from their practice but are still within 7 years of commencing
- Came to craft practice later in life, but are still within 7 years of commencing

* If selected, applicants must be able to provide a complete and accurate IRS Form W-9 for tax reporting purposes.

CRAFT DISCIPLINES

The Spector Craft Prize celebrates excellence across a broad spectrum of craft disciplines that demonstrate technical mastery and innovation. Eligible disciplines include, but are not limited to: ceramics, glass, woodworking, textiles, metalwork, paper arts, basketry, and more. All works must demonstrate mastery of fundamental techniques while pushing creative boundaries.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All submitted work must:

- Be owned exclusively by the applicant at all times since creation
- Be an original piece, handmade or partly handmade by the applicant
- Have been created within the last 3 years
- Demonstrate artistic intent and technical excellence

Each applicant may submit only one work or series. Previously submitted work, with or without alterations, will not be accepted.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted through the Foundation's online portal at www.spectorcraftprize.org from November 11, 2025, to March 1, 2026.

Required submissions include:

- Completed application form
- Artist statement (250 words maximum)
- Description of Submitted Work (150 words maximum)
- Biographical summary (150 words maximum)
- 2-5 high-resolution images of submitted work (with scale reference and neutral background)
- Copy of government-issued photo identification

Optional submission:

- 90-second video submission
- Up to 5 career portfolio images

Image specifications:

- Format: JPEG or PNG
- Minimum size: 800 x 600 px
- Maximum file size: 2 MB each
- White or neutral background required
- At least one image must include scale reference

SELECTION PROCESS

Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists Jury: : Following an initial screening by the Spector Family Foundation, a distinguished panel including craft professionals, curators, and artists will review submissions and select finalists based on artistic excellence, cultural significance, growth potential, and mission alignment.

Selection Criteria:

- Artistic Excellence: Technical mastery, innovative vision, and aesthetic achievement
- Cultural Significance: Contribution to American craft traditions and contemporary relevance
- Growth Potential: Demonstrated trajectory and potential for significant future impact
- Mission Alignment: Commitment to strengthening craft's role in American culture

Timeline:

- November 11, 2025: Application period opens
- March 1, 2026: Application period closes
- March-May 2026: Jury deliberation
- June 2026: Final selection
- September 2026: Public announcement
- November 10-12, 2026: Inaugural Spector Craft Summit and awards ceremony

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND USAGE RIGHTS

Artist Declarations: By submitting an application, applicants represent that their work is original and does not infringe on third-party intellectual property rights. Applicants further represent that they have maintained exclusive ownership of the work since creation and guarantee accuracy of all submitted information.

Usage Rights: Selected artists grant the Spector Family Foundation an irrevocable, nonexclusive, royalty-free license to reproduce images of their work for promotional purposes related to the Prize, the Spector Craft Summit, and the related general activities of the Foundation, including without limitation, catalogue publication, website display, social media, and press materials. Artists retain full ownership and copyright of their work. Selected artists may be asked to participate in one or more promotional videos or clips in connection with the Prize. Accordingly, selected artists also grant the Foundation permission for their name, likeness, image, or voice to be recorded, used, and distributed for promotional purposes related to the Prize, the Spector Craft Summit, and the general related activities of the Foundation, including without limitation, website display, social media, and press materials.

Attribution: The Spector Family Foundation will credit selected artists in all usage of their work and will refer to applicants in professional terms in all communications related to the Prize.

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

Selected artists agree to:

- Use the \$10,000 Prize proceeds to support their artistic practice
- Attend the Spector Craft Summit and awards ceremony
- Participate in promotional activities related to the Prize
- Engage professionally in mentorship and networking opportunities
- Represent the Prize and the Spector Family Foundation in positive terms
- Report to the Spector Family Foundation in accordance with IRS requirements
- Provide a complete and accurate IRS Form W-9 to the Foundation for tax reporting purposes

Travel and accommodation costs for required program activities will be covered by the Spector Family Foundation.

GENERAL TERMS

Modification of Rules: The Spector Family Foundation reserves the right, at any time and without prior notice, to modify these rules, extend deadlines, or suspend or terminate the Prize in case of unforeseen circumstances. Any changes will be published on the Prize website, and applicants may withdraw if they disagree with modifications.

Publicity: Selected artists agree that they shall not make any public announcement, press release, or any other communication concerning the Prize or the Spector Family Foundation without the Spector Family Foundation's prior written consent. The Spector Family Foundation will be authorized to use the name, biography, and likeness of the selected artists in any communication and/or promotional material released to promote the Prize, the Spector Craft Summit, or the related general activities of the Foundation.

Disqualification: Failure to meet eligibility requirements, submission of false information, or violation of these rules, each as determined by the Foundation in its sole discretion, may result in disqualification.

Final Decisions: All decisions regarding selection are final and not subject to appeal. Selection panel deliberations remain confidential.

Governing Law: These rules are governed by the laws of the State of New York, United States.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about the application process:

Email: info@spectorcraftprize.org

Website: www.spectorcraftprize.org

The Spector Craft Prize is committed to supporting artists from diverse backgrounds and experiences. We encourage applications from artists of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.