



2025 MERA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN FINE ARTS AND FINE CRAFTS

About the MERA Award

MERA (McDonalds Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts) recognizes that artists are essential to the vitality and well-being of the communities in which they live and work. The MERA Award of Excellence in Fine Arts and Fine Crafts was created in 2008 to provide a vehicle to celebrate local artists practicing in the fields of fine arts or fine crafts who demonstrate excellence in their work.

The MERA Award is given every two years on the basis of a body of artwork.

The MERA Award includes a cash prize of \$1000. Additionally, each MERA Award recipient and runners up may be given the opportunity to publicly present his or her artwork at the time the prize is awarded.

This prize is funded in large part by the generous donation to the Perth and District Community Foundation (PDCF) made by Chris and David Dodge who conceived the Award. The Award is administered and given by MERA.

About MERA

McDonalds Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts (MERA) is a not-for profit charitable corporation dedicated to enriching the lives of members of its community of all ages by providing and encouraging a variety of opportunities for personal expression, instruction and appreciation of the visual and performing arts. MERA's activities are based in a heritage schoolhouse in McDonalds Corners in the Township of Lanark Highlands, Ontario.

Further Information

For further information about MERA or the MERA Award see MERA's website: www.meraschoolhouse.org , email MERA at meraschoolhouse@gmail.com or write to MERA at:

MERA AWARD of EXCELLENCE
McDonalds Corners/Elphin Recreation & Arts
974 Concession 9A Dalhousie
McDonalds Corners, ON K0G 1M0

For further information about the Perth and District Community Foundation, see PDCF's website: www.pdcf.ca or email PDCF at pdcf@bellnet.ca

Guidelines for Applying for the MERA AWARD

To apply for the MERA Award, eligible applicants must submit their completed applications by the deadline application. Previous applicants to the MERA Award are welcome to reapply.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE 2025 MERA AWARD IS APRIL 30, 2025.

Eligibility of Applicants

To be eligible to apply for the MERA Award, an applicant must be:

- a citizen or permanent resident of Canada; and
- ordinarily resident in one of the following Eastern Ontario municipalities: the Townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac, North Frontenac, or the Town of Perth.

An applicant is not eligible to apply for the 2025 MERA Award if he/she:

- Is a member of the MERA Award Assessment Committee for 2025,
- Is any of the following "MERA Affiliates" in office at any time in the period between the date on which the application form for 2025 is first posted on MERA's website and the date of the Award ceremony for 2025:
 - a Director or Officer of MERA,
 - a MERA employee or an administrative officer under contract to MERA, or
 - a member of the immediate family (spouse or equivalent, son or daughter, son in law or daughter in law or equivalent, parent or sibling) of any member of the Assessment Committee or of any of the MERA Affiliates.
 - a previous recipient of the MERA Award.

Completed Application

The completed application consists of:

1. A completed Biographical Information and Artist's Statement document;
2. A completed Declaration Form signed by the applicant;
3. 1 digital portrait of the applicant;
4. Digital still images of 5 to 7 artworks the applicant has produced in the past 5 years (up to 3 images per artwork);
5. An image list describing the title, date, materials and dimensions of the artworks shown in the images; and
6. The completed Application Checklist document

Applicants may, at their option, also submit a written recommendation from someone knowledgeable in fine arts or fine crafts.

Requirements for Digital Still Images:

- All digital still images must be PC compatible jpg files only.
- Each digital still image must be labeled with the applicant's name and the title of the work.

Requirements for documents:

- All documents must be typed and easy to read, with minimum font size of 12, Arial is recommended for the font
- The applicant's name and the page number in the format p. x of y must appear at the bottom of each page of each document
- Each document must be separately page-numbered

Applications will not be returned to the applicant.

Submission of Applications

Applications must be submitted as a Dropbox folder, or by email, addressed to: meraschoolhouse@gmail.com

To be considered, an application must be complete and must be received on or before 30 April, 2025.

MERA will not accept late applications or applications submitted on paper. Incomplete applications and applications that do not meet the stated requirements will not be presented to the MERA Award Assessment Committee.

Assessment Process

The winner of the MERA Award will be chosen by an Assessment Committee according to the Assessment Criteria stated below.

At its sole discretion, the Assessment Committee may decide to share the MERA Award between two qualified applicants or give no Award. The Assessment Committee may, at its sole discretion, select up to 3 runners up.

Decisions of the Assessment Committee will be final.

Applicants will receive no feedback from the assessment process.

Assessment Criteria

The MERA Award will recognize an artist:

- Who makes exceptional work;
- Who demonstrates mastery of the his or her art form;
- Who demonstrates an ongoing commitment to his or her art practice; and
- Whose artwork shows evidence of development over time.

Assessment Committee

The assessment committee will consist of three or five members knowledgeable in the fields of fine arts or fine crafts appointed by MERA's Board of Directors.

The Assessment Committee will be comprised of at least one member who ordinarily resides in one of the following municipalities: the Townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac, North Frontenac, or the Town of Perth and one member who ordinarily resides outside these municipalities.

Assessment Committee members may serve more than one term.

The names of the Assessment Committee members will be released with the results of the competition.

Notification and Presentation of the MERA Award

The recipient of the MERA Award and each of the shortlisted artists will be advised of the MERA Award results by email or postal mail no more than thirty (30) days after the application deadline. Shortly after, the Award results will be posted on MERA's website www.meraschoolhouse.org

The MERA Award will be presented at an awards ceremony to be held **Friday June 13th, 2025. Award winner(s) are expected to attend in person.**



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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND ARTIST'S STATEMENT

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE NO MORE THAN TWO PAGES LONG

Biographical Information: Please provide the following biographical information in one document, using the headings below in the order given.

First and Last Names

Postal Address

Email address

Website address (if applicable)

Telephone Number

Formal or informal training in the Fine Arts or Fine Crafts

Recognition of the Applicant's artwork e.g. Exhibitions, Juried Studio Tours, Honours and Awards, Permanent Collections, Commissions, Sales, etc.

Artist's Statement: Briefly explain how your work meets the Assessment Criteria described in the Guidelines. Show knowledge of the contemporary and historical context and tradition of your artistic practice.



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DECLARATION FORM

As an applicant for the MERA Award of Excellence in Fine Arts and Fine Crafts 2025, I declare that:

- I am a citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
- I am ordinarily resident in one of the following Eastern Ontario municipalities: the Townships of Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Central Frontenac, North Frontenac, or the Town of Perth;
- I will abide by the decision of the Assessment Committee; and
- All documents and digital files included as part of my application conform to the requirements outlined in the MERA Award 2025 Guidelines

Should I receive the MERA Award or recognition as a runner up, I agree that:

- I will cooperate in the preparation of promotional materials for the Award and the Award ceremony;
- MERA and PDCF may use my photograph and the information submitted with my application relating to my art practice to publicize the MERA Award. (I hereby give copyright permission, at no charge, to MERA and to PDCF to make copies of the images submitted as part of my application for the purpose of publicizing the MERA Award in any media including the MERA and PDCF websites);
- I will attend the MERA Award ceremony (MERA Award winners only; runners up may but need not attend); and
- I will keep the results of the assessment process confidential until the date of the public announcement by MERA.

Print or type Name of Applicant: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____



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CHECKLIST FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

(Print) Applicant's Name: _____

Check off what you have included in your application and submit a copy of this checklist with your application.

___ This Checklist

___ Completed Biographical Information and Artist's Statement document

___ Completed Declaration Form

___ 1 digital portrait of the applicant.

___ Digital still images of 5 to 7 of your artworks (up to 3 images per artwork).

___ A completed image list

___ A letter of recommendation (optional)