



CALL FOR PROJECTS

12TH EDITION OF THE ART SOUTERRAIN FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 29TH - MARCH 22ND 2020

ART
SOU_TERRAIN

THE FESTIVAL

1. Art Souterrain's mandate

Art Souterrain is an ambitious and dynamic non-profit organization. Since 2009, our mandate has been to disseminate contemporary art to a wide audience.

In an attempt to demystify contemporary art, through annual events, our organization aims to empower the viewer and build meaningful connections between the artwork and its public. To achieve its goal, Art Souterrain commits to exhibiting artworks outside of the art institution context in order to meet the individuals directly.

By establishing itself in unconventional locations, Art Souterrain wishes to surprise the viewers in their daily lives and therefore initiate an unprecedented cultural interaction.

2. Numbers from the 2019 edition

The 11th edition of the Art Souterrain Festival took place in a time-span of 3 weeks and already attracted over 30 000 visitors during its inauguration night. In total, nearly 200 000 visitors have journeyed through the exhibition and the works of our 66 artists.

On the theme True or False, this last edition has inspired more than 60 artists to produce diverse works including photography, sculpture or even monumental installation.

Punctuated by as many as sixty activities, the festival has reinvented itself through its varied and original animations. The mediators, artists and curators alike have put together or participated in activities in order to share their experience with the public.

Orchestrated by 4 curators, the festival has induced enthusiasm across the world : more than 250 articles have been written in the press to talk about this major event in Montreal's contemporary art scene.

An excitement shared on social medias with more than 14 000 viewers on Art Souterrain's website. Added to these numbers are the 10 000 interactions on Facebook and 400 users connecting weekly to the festival's instagram page.

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3. Theme for the 2020 edition : Reset

Every year, the Art Souterrain Festival chooses a meaningful theme able to challenge our visitors, echo current international events and inspire artists. In 2020, the theme "Reset" has been chosen.

" What if you could, by the press of a button erase everything, what would you do with this blank canvas? If you could start from nothing how would you imagine the world? "

Humanity is at a turning point. Should we persist in our habits or become aware of our repetitive way of life in order to rebuild from the ground up? Shaking up our routine and changing our habits can cause intense moments of insecurity. This can lead to painful reassessments and a loss of our points of reference.

The climatic, economic and political upheavals are on the front page of our news feeds. Individually and collectively, if they want to survive, human beings need to change their way of connecting with the world but also with each other.

"Is Manichaeism the only solution? Should we only think in terms of utopia and dystopia in order to discover new avenues?"

4. The Art Souterrain underground circuit

Art Souterrain wishes to present projects that account for their integration within the sometime atypical architecture of the various exhibition sites. These locations are often unusual in nature or even unused. Which is why our organization wishes to encourage artists to take advantage of particular locations across the circuit.

Please note that the final choice of the on-site locations for the works will be left to the discretion of the program committee and the edifice's administrators.

Underground locations

- Complexe Guy-Favreau
- Palais des congrès de Montréal
- World Trade Centre Montréal
- ICAO
- Place Bonaventure
- Édifice Jacques-Parizeau

Satellite locations

The selection of satellite locations for the 12th edition of the Art Souterrain Festival is currently in progress.

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5. Admissibility

Mediums authorized for the 2020 Festival :

- Installations
- Sound pieces
- Performance
- Video
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Paintings
- Drawings
- Textiles
- Serigraphy
- Numeric arts

Imperative conditions to adhere to :

- This call is addressed to local and international artist.
- Projects must be transportable as accompanied luggage or must be built in Montreal.
- It is possible for an artist to present multiple projects by submitting an application form for each projects.
- The art works submitted have to be coherent with the theme.
- Caution : Art Souterrain will only accept documents submitted through the application form available on our website.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE
JUNE 30th, 2019**

6. Medium specific constraint

• Photography :

The artist must submit between 2 and 10 files in a numeric format with high resolution and ready for impression. For series of photographs, artist do not have the obligation to expose the complete series. The final printed document must be minimum 30x40 inches.

Art Souterrain commits to print the works if the artist offers high resolution numeric images. It is important to note that the technical director, the artist and the printer all work conjointly towards the approval of the final result.

The installation of printed works will be assured by professionals and will be the responsibility of Art Souterrain. The presence of the artist will be left to his discretion.

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- **Video projects :**

Montreal's underground network doesn't offer full obscurity and dark areas are very limited.

- **Sound projects :**

Montreal's underground network doesn't offer any space exempt of sound interferences.

- **Performances :**

Performances presented during the opening night (Nuit Blanche) will most likely take place at the Place Bonaventure. During the festival, other performances can be programmed in other locations.

7. Projects and ways of utilizing the space

- Due to the specific context and the difficulties in ensuring safety in high-traffic areas, we cannot exhibit work that requires traditional wall hanging or objects and materials that can easily be stolen or broken. The artist is responsible for proposing a project that is adapted to the particular exhibition constraints.
- We prioritize works that are considered ephemeral or in situ.
- Proposals of older work that have been exhibited in other contexts are admissible.
- Art Souterrain reserves the right to refuse any projects deemed unfit to the public space.

8. Advantages and financial compensations

Artist allocation : 500 \$. Depending on the proposition and specific materials, additional aids can be provided

- **Production allocations** (exceptionally and at the discretion of the evaluation committee)
- **Accommodation allocations for international artists.** A financial help can also be given to Canadian artists living further than 250km from Montreal.

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- **Travel allocations** : Art Souterrain will provide financial assistance for the transportation of artworks requiring particular logistics. It will vary depending on the work the distance to travel.
- **Production of the works** : printing and installation of projects are take care of by Art Souterrain and their partner printer.
- **Per-Diem** for international artists.
- **Technicians at your disposal.**
- **Location of visual and audio material if needed** : flatscreen television, speakers, projectors, DVD players, Blu-Ray players, media players, headphones, cabins or video spaces.
- **Collaboration to the Festival's activities** : round table, guided visits, workshops, etc.
- **Invitations to the Festival's events** : Networking evening, cultural events, etc.
- **Communication and broadcast** of the projects and artists on our website and social medias.

* *Allocations and other financial compensations will be sent up to 60 open days after the end of the Festival*

9. Security

- Exhibiting in Montreal's underground network includes some amount of risk and it is not possible to have a total control over the exhibition sites.
- Art Souterrain's insurance will cover fire or water damage or if the work is stolen in its entirety. However, the security of the work in the occurrence of vandalism or steal of parts of the work will not be assured by the contracted insurance.
- Note that adhesive vinyl is not recoverable. Due to this fact, photographic projects will be destroyed at the end of the exhibit and will not be assured.
- DVD recordings and video works are not assured
- The works for which materials are not returned to the artist will not be assured
- Any projects using flammable materials (cloth, cardboard, wood, etc.) need to be fireproofed at the expense of the artists. Many materials and vaporizers respond to the norms of security for fireproofing. Controls will be made by employees on the exhibition sites.

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10. Responsibilities of the artists

1. The artist commits to complete a technical sheet which will be provided by the director of programming.
2. The artist needs to be present for the preparatory meetings prior to the exhibiting of his project
3. Artist who reside in the Greater Montreal need to accompany Art Souterrain for a location scoping. For the artists outside of Quebec, a photography, a video and details about the site will be sent through email.
4. The artists need to regularly contact through email or telephone with the team of Art Souterrain to precise their projects, needs and modalities of installation.
5. The artist will be solicited to provide the necessary material for the communication and mediation of their project : a text for the presentation sheet of the project, HD photographs, a text for the audio guide, propositions to participate in mediation actions if possible.
6. The artist will communicate with the cultural mediators (in person, by phone or Skype) who will be in charge of presenting their work during the Nuit Blanche

11. Installation and disassembly

The installation will be done during the week prior to the Nuit blanche (end of February) and the disassembly will begin the night of the last exhibition day (March 22nd). Our contract with the sites's administrators imposes a one day period to take down the works and clear the exhibitions spaces.

For complex installations, the presence of the artist or of a representative designated by the artist who's presence will be **mandatory** during the installation and disassembly.

Please note :

- Art Souterrain can provide, upon demand, a technical support.

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- For artists residing in the Greater Montreal area, total autonomy is requested for the transport, installation and disassembly of the works.
- * **NB** Artists commit to create and present work as it was presented in the initial proposition subsequent to the validation by the program committee.

12. Selection criteria

The programming committee formed by Art Souterrain collaborators will evaluate projects based on these criteria :

- **Emotional output**

The work challenges the viewer and gives birth to meaningful thoughts and emotions.

- **Technical complexity**

In order to assure the feasibility of the installation, the project must take in account the technical and financial resources of Art Souterrain.

- **Viability as a public art piece**

The projects must be created considering the fact that it will be exhibited for 3 weeks in a high traffic public space, open in average 16 hours a day.

13. Schedule of the selection process

The selection process will be held from July to August of 2019 depending on the following schedule :

Step 1 : Evaluation of the projects by the programming committee

Step 2 : Presentation of the chosen projects to the exhibition site's administrators

Step 3 : Final response sent to the artists

14. Selection committee

The evaluation committee is composed of diverse professionals exerting in the art world in production and in logistic. The choices made by this committee is followed by a submission of the projects to the underground and satellite locations's administrators.

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**Final answer to artists
Friday September 13th, 2019**

15. Submitting an application

The deadline to send your application is **June 30th 2019**.

I have read the terms and agreements, I understand and accept them. By completing this form I attest having acknowledged this document and accepted the conditions of exhibition of the Art Souterrain Festival 2020.

Please answer the following online applications forms in order to complete your application.

**Complete the
profile form**

**Complete the
project form**

We are at your disposal for any questions you may have about the project call-out for the 2020 Art Souterrain festival at this email address :
candidature@artsouterrain.com.