



Monterey Museum of Art 2027 *Monterey Biennial* Call for Curator

Exhibition Dates:

June 24 – September 26, 2027

Overview:

Monterey Museum of Art (MMA) is seeking a Curator for the 2027 *Monterey Biennial*. Following the inaugural [2025 Monterey Biennial](#), this exhibition will be the second exhibition at MMA dedicated to celebrating the contemporary art and artists of Central California. MMA seeks compelling and innovative work from both emerging and established artists, and a thoughtful, curatorial vision.

The duties of the Curator include reviewing artist submissions, selecting artwork to feature, collaborating with Museum Staff to curate the exhibition, and participating in Biennial events and programming. The Biennial will fill two galleries and be featured alongside Randy Tunnell's *Know-It-Alls: Dedicated Docents of Monterey County* and a Jim Marshall photography exhibition.

Call for Artists:

Artist applications will be free to submit and open to those 18 years and older living in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo counties. Accepted media are ceramics, drawings, installations, paintings, prints, photography, mixed media, new media, sculptures, textiles, and time-based works. To view the full artist prospectus, visit the [2027 Monterey Biennial Prospectus](#).

Submission Review Process:

The Curator should seek artists with a strong and cohesive body of work, from which several pieces (up to 5) can be selected for the exhibition. Selections should be based on artistic vision, technical skill, and originality.

Round one

- After an eligibility pre-screening by Museum Staff, the Curator will be asked to blind review each artist's submission. Each submission will include an artist statement and three artworks representing their body of work. At the end of round one, the Curator and Staff will select 25 artists to move forward into round two.

Round two

- Curator and Museum Staff will conduct Zoom interviews with each semifinalist to do a studio walkthrough (if applicable), interview, and see the rest of their body of work. At the end of round two, 10–15 finalists will be selected for the exhibition.

Curation:

With input and assistance from Staff, the Curator is responsible for the exhibition curation, gallery layout, and interpretive texts of the *Monterey Biennial*. The selected artwork should be cohesive and follow a throughline/theme of the Curator's choosing. MMA seeks an innovative theme, layout, and installation that showcases the breadth of the contemporary artwork of Central California. The Curator will also collaborate with the Education and Public Program team to establish a series of interactives that engage the public in the curatorial themes.

**Programs and Events:**

The Curator is required to be present at the Museum for a series of events, including exhibition installation, the VIP reception, public opening, and curator talk.

Key Dates:

- Round One Submission Review: December 10, 2026 – January 10, 2027
- Round Two Submission Review: January 10 – February 10, 2027
- Exhibition Installation
 - Initial Layout: June 15, 2027
 - Final Walkthrough: June 23, 2027
- VIP Reception: June 25, 2027
- Public Opening: June 26, 2027
- Curator Talk: Saturday between June 24 – September 26, 2027

Minimum Qualifications:

- Extensive knowledge of contemporary California art
- Experience with curation of diverse mediums and artists and knowledge of the history and peoples of Central California
- Experience in collaboration and project management, including experience collaborating to produce exhibition related materials for education interactives
- Excellence in writing, research, and general communication
- Deep involvement with artist communities and museum culture
- Degree in Art History, Museum Studies, Fine Art, or Art Education preferred

Compensation:

Salary: \$10,000

Reimbursement for travel (.73/mi) and up to seven days of residency at \$199/day for housing and \$92/day for expenses. Partial and travel days are pro-rated.

How to Apply:

Please submit your application through the [2027 Monterey Biennial Curator Application Portal](#).

Requirements include a CV, cover letter, and responses to the following questions:

1. How would you approach curating an exhibition with a low budget while maintaining a creative vision and creating an engaging and compelling visitor experience?
2. What draws you to this position?
3. Explain how your previous experience contributes to the success of the *Monterey Biennial*.

Application Deadline: October 31, 2026**Contact Information**

Monterey Museum of Art

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