

# SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE

## FAQ

### WHAT IS THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE?

Founded by the Spector Family Foundation, the Spector Craft Prize is a three-part initiative championing American craft by supporting craft artists at pivotal moments in their careers. The three parts include:

The Spector Craft Prize, which honors an established craft artist through a museum acquisition funded by the Spector Family Foundation.

The Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists, which awards a \$10,000 grant and mentorship opportunities to five craft artists with seven years or less within their professional craft practice.

The Spector Craft Summit, a transformative gathering connecting emerging and established voices through discussions, mentorship, and community-building essential for sustaining careers in craft.

### IS THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE OPEN INTERNATIONALLY?

No, the Spector Craft Prize is focused on American craft, and applicants must live and work in the United States.

### CAN I APPLY FOR THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR ESTABLISHED ARTISTS?

The Spector Craft Prize for established artists is not application-based. Recipients are determined by the Spector Family Foundation and the host museum in consultation with our Advisory Board, which may submit nominations.

### WHAT IS THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS?

The Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists is a juried prize honoring five exceptional makers with seven years or less of studio practice.

### WHAT DO WINNERS OF THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS RECEIVE?

Emerging Artists receive a \$10,000 financial award, mentorship opportunities, participation in the Spector Craft Summit, and professional network development.

### WHAT CRAFT DISCIPLINES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS?

We welcome applications from craft artists working in ceramics, textiles, woodworking, glass, metalwork, basketry, and paper arts. However, this list is not exhaustive. As long as your work demonstrates skilled making, is made by hand, you identify as a craft artist, and you meet the other eligibility requirements, you should apply. If you have questions about your eligibility, please email us at [info@spectorcraftprize.org](mailto:info@spectorcraftprize.org).

### I AM NOT A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES. CAN I STILL APPLY?

Yes. For the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists, we accept applications from individuals who live and work in the United States and can properly complete a Form W-9.

I AM AN OLDER CRAFT ARTIST. CAN I BE CONSIDERED FOR THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS?

Eligibility for this Prize is about the number of years actively working in your craft, not your age. We consider individuals with seven years or less from the beginning of their professional craft practice to be eligible for the Emerging Artists Prize.

WHAT DOES A "PROFESSIONAL CRAFT PRACTICE" MEAN?

We define professional craft practice as a dedicated, full-time studio practice outside of school or formal education.

I GRADUATED FROM CRAFT SCHOOL OVER SEVEN YEARS AGO, BUT I BEGAN MY PROFESSIONAL CRAFT WITHIN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS. AM I STILL ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS?

Yes. As long as your professional craft practice began within the last seven years, you are eligible to apply.

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS?

Applications for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists close on March 1, 2026.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT TO APPLY FOR THE SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS?

To apply for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists, you must submit:

A completed application

An artist statement (250 words maximum)

A description of submitted work (150 words maximum)

A biographical summary (150 words maximum)

Two to five high-resolution images of submitted work (with scale reference and neutral background)

A copy of government-issued photo identification

IS THERE AN APPLICATION FEE?

No, this application does not have a fee.

DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION ALL AT ONCE?

No, the submissions portal automatically saves your entry as you type, so you are able to edit your application at any time. Make sure to thoroughly review your application before submitting, as you will be unable to make any changes after submission.

CAN I SUBMIT A PIECE OF ORIGINAL WORK THAT I CREATED FIVE YEARS AGO?

The required images submitted with your application must be of work created within the last three years. However, the career portfolio is optional and allows you to submit up to five additional works that provide broader context for your practice and development as an artist, including older work.

ARE DIGITAL CRAFT OR 3D-PRINTED PIECES ELIGIBLE?

Any submitted work must involve hand-making. This does not mean that it cannot also involve digital tools or 3D-printing (for example, digitally designed and laser-cut wood components or 3D-printed clay).

## WHEN AND HOW WILL WINNERS OF THE 2026 SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS BE NOTIFIED?

Winners will be notified directly by email by June 2026. All applicants will receive notification of their application status.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM HAVING TROUBLE UPLOADING MY WORK?

Email [info@spectorcrafterize.org](mailto:info@spectorcrafterize.org) with your issue and we will assist you in troubleshooting.

## IF I WIN, WILL I HAVE TO PAY TAXES ON MY AWARD?

While we are not able to provide tax advice, the Spector Family Foundation is required to report the award to the IRS on Form 1099.

## MAY I MAIL A HARD COPY OF MY APPLICATION MATERIALS TO YOUR OFFICE?

No. All applications must be submitted through our online portal. If you're experiencing technical difficulties with the submission process, please contact us at [info@spectorcrafterize.org](mailto:info@spectorcrafterize.org) and we'll work with you to resolve the issue.

## I'M SELF-TAUGHT AND MY CRAFT PRACTICE IS PART-TIME. CAN I STILL APPLY?

We welcome applications from self-taught artists. Eligibility requires seven years or less of dedicated professional practice, which we define as full-time studio work outside of formal education. If your practice is part-time or primarily recreational rather than professional, you may not meet the eligibility requirements. Ultimately, applicants should assess whether their level of commitment aligns with the intent of the Prize.

## DO I NEED TO HAVE SOLD MY WORK TO BE CONSIDERED PROFESSIONAL?

No, you just need a dedicated full-time studio practice, not a sales history.

## CAN I REAPPLY IF I DIDN'T WIN THE PREVIOUS YEAR?

Yes, as long as you still meet the seven years or less of professional practice requirement.

## CAN I SUBMIT WORK THAT IS IN A GALLERY OR MUSEUM ALREADY?

The Rules of Entry state that submitted work must be solely owned by the creator since time of creation. Work that has been sold, donated, or gifted is not eligible for the required submission but may be included in your optional career portfolio.

## WHAT DOES MENTORSHIP LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE FOR WINNERS OF THE PRIZE?

We are still building this aspect of the program, but mentorship may include one-on-one guidance, career advice, and network introductions with established craft artists. Formats may vary each year.