

# The William H. Johnson Foundation for the Arts

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## 2017 JOHNSON PRIZE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DEADLINE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017, 6P

- Q.A.** *Are only online applications accepted?* **Yes.** All applications for the Johnson Prize must be submitted **online** at <[www.whjohnsongrant.org](http://www.whjohnsongrant.org)>.
- Q.A.** *I've previously applied for the Johnson Prize. May I use materials from my prior application(s)?* **No.** Applicants must submit new application materials each year, including letters of recommendation.
- Q.A.** *I work in new genre. May I submit video and/or audio files?* **Yes.** New genre work samples may be submitted on DVD, mailed to the foundation's address and postmarked by the application deadline. For detailed instructions regarding the submission of work samples in new genre, refer to the [application worksheet](#) available online at <[www.whjohnsongrant.org/pdfs/AppWorksheet-JohnsonPrize-2017.pdf](http://www.whjohnsongrant.org/pdfs/AppWorksheet-JohnsonPrize-2017.pdf)>.
- Q.A.** *Although I work in new genre, some of my work is better understood by viewing supplementary images that show details critical to understanding the work as a whole. May I submit images to supplement my video and/or audio?* **Yes.** If an applicant's primary media type is video and/or audio, but still images show critical components of the work in a manner that video/audio alone cannot accommodate, then the applicant may upload images as secondary media.
- Q.A.** *Although I don't work primarily in new genre, some of my work can't be fully represented within the image format, because it includes some video/audio components. May I submit video and/or audio to supplement my images?* **Yes.** If an applicant's primary media type is images, but video and/or audio is a critical component to understanding the work as a whole, then the applicant may submit a DVD containing a selection of video and/or audio as secondary media. For detailed instructions regarding the submission of work samples in new genre, refer to the [application worksheet](#) available online at <[www.whjohnsongrant.org/pdfs/AppWorksheet-JohnsonPrize-2017.pdf](http://www.whjohnsongrant.org/pdfs/AppWorksheet-JohnsonPrize-2017.pdf)>.
- Q.A.** *I'm currently an undergraduate. Is the Prize open to students?* **Students are not precluded from applying, however, because the applicant pool is extremely competitive, a student may have better chances of winning the Prize after producing a post-graduate body of work.**
- Q.A.** *I'm an artist in need of support for a project. May I submit an application?* **The Johnson Prize is an unrestricted financial grant awarded based on an artist's work, achievement and potential for growth. At this time the foundation does not accept requests for funding of specific projects.**
- Q.A.** *I'm in financial need. Will this improve my chances to win the Johnson Prize?* **Not necessarily, but need is a factor that could make a difference. For example, if a jury has identified the two top applicants and considers them essentially equal in every other respect then the jury, at its discretion, may award the Prize based on considerable attention paid to financial need.**
- Q.A.** *I'm a figurative painter, and have noticed that past Johnson Prize winners make a different type of work than the type I make. To what degree do these past winners indicate the direction of the Johnson Prize? Should I bother applying?* **The foundation convenes a new jury panel each year to award the Johnson Prize, and each year the panel is comprised of jurors representing diverse backgrounds and geographic regions throughout the nation. This strategy enables the Johnson Foundation to meet its goal to honor a diversity of artistic expressions. We strongly encourage any eligible artist to apply.**
- Q.A.** *Who is considered an "early-career" artist?* **For our purposes, "early-career" is a flexible term that should be interpreted liberally to include artists who have finished their academic work and/or started working as a professional artist within the twelve years prior to the year in which s/he is applying for the Prize. For example, an artist who finished their studies in 2005 would be eligible to apply for the 2017 Prize, but not the 2018 Prize. Age is not determinative, and artists who have not earned BFAs or MFAs are still eligible so long as they have not been working as a professional artist for more than twelve years.**
- Q.A.** *I am a Nigerian artist living in the United State. Am I eligible for the Johnson Prize?* **The Prize is awarded to artists who descend from circumstances similar to those from which William H. Johnson descended (slavery, Jim Crow, segregation, institutionalized exclusion). Because of the widely varied histories of African Americans, these criteria must be loosely interpreted; for example, an artist with a West Indian background would have much in common with Johnson. However, African artists have a different history which is outside the current scope of the Foundation.**