



## **Membership Information**

Our gallery is a co-op. It is owned and operated by the local artists and craftspeople that show here. We strive to maintain a small, active membership, currently about 20-22 artists. Opportunities for new members usually arise only when a current member departs the gallery. Before you cast your lot with us you'll probably want to know...

### ***How Our Gallery Works***

If you've never been involved with a cooperative before, here's how our gallery functions: The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts is basically 'business by democracy'. It is organized as a for-profit corporation. We are an equal partnership of artists. We have no manager so members are actively involved in all aspects of the work of running the gallery. The artist/members act individually or in committees to take on everything from advertising and web design to installing exhibits, staffing and marketing the gallery to gallery upkeep.

Members also share all costs of running the gallery. Rent and utilities are split equally and paid in the monthly dues. Dues currently stand at about \$180 per artist each month, but they are subject to change. Additionally, a 15% commission supports gallery expenses such as packaging supplies, lighting and improvements. We meet monthly to plan and discuss gallery business, and all major gallery decisions are made by vote.

Though artists do not have an individual space or even a guaranteed portion of the gallery's walls, cases, pedestals or floor space, we do strive for fair representation.

### ***Responsibilities and Opportunities***

When you become a member of the Hillsborough Gallery of Arts you are buying into a for-profit cooperative business. There are certain implied responsibilities in being a part owner. This is a great place to sell your work and get public exposure, but artist/members have to remember they are the ones expected to create and run the business. Meeting attendance and active participation by all members as officers or in one or more committees is essential to the continued success of the gallery.

- Staff the gallery about 3-4 shifts per month (depending on number of members)
- Pay monthly dues and 15% commission on all sales.
- Keep up with gallery business on the gallery member Yahoo! Group site.
- Attend a monthly business meeting to keep up to date on gallery business and participate in the ongoing creation of the gallery. We often have active debate in this process but strive to maintain a harmonious tenor.
- Participate in one or more committees and/or become an officer. Think about where your talents lie and what you'd like to do for the gallery. A wide variety of artist/member skills are needed!
- We are part of Hillsborough's Last Friday Art Walk and require member artists to attend and participate in this event as possible to prepare the gallery, do sales, and have fun. Artists participate in Featured Artist exhibits that showcase 2 or 3 artists and in occasional 'special topic' Group Shows with all members.

## ***Eligibility***

If you are a visual artist or craftsperson residing in the local (easy commute) area you are eligible to apply for membership. Partnerships and collaborations are not considered. Only individuals may apply.

We welcome applicants whose work blends well in the gallery, yet diversifies us in a significant way in medium or style, and who can be fully participating members, attending meetings and helping in the work of the gallery. We ask that you be the sole creator of your work, and that the work is original, recent, and hand made.

## ***Selection Process***

Generally, **new members are considered on a quarterly basis** (at the end of March, June, September, and December), **but only if a current member has resigned to create an opening**. Since membership openings only arise occasionally, not all quarters will necessarily have juries. We accept applications only when we have an opening.

If you want to be notified when there is a vacancy, complete the **Waiting List Contact Form**. Once the gallery will contacts you when of an opening you may submit a full application.

Prospective members must **submit a completed Application along with 5 high quality images in jpg format on CD** of current work and the **application fee**. (*See Application for specifications.*) If you work in more than one medium, please include several images from each medium you plan to exhibit. (Upon entry to the gallery you may exhibit work only in the medium(s) juried in. However, if you change medium during your tenure your colleagues can "jury" new work for exhibit at a business meeting) Incomplete applications will not be considered. No original work at this point please. **Applications with materials will only be accepted when a vacancy occurs and then must be postmarked by the 10th of each of the above months to be considered in that quarter.** (Application deadlines may vary.)

**Those selected in the initial jury will be invited for an interview.** At that time you can meet members, ask questions, and bring in recent, representative work.

**All applicants will be notified of jury results.** Accepted applicants will then be taken through the steps of officially joining with the gallery. It is the policy of the Gallery to refrain from explanations of jury decisions. Critiques of submitted work will not be given. Members are chosen not only on the strength of their work but also on the needs of the Gallery at the time of application.

**Application and Waiting List Contact Form** are available for download at our Website.

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## ***Contact***

Questions regarding application may be directed to the Membership Chair, at [membership@HillsboroughGallery.com](mailto:membership@HillsboroughGallery.com)