

Critical MASS 12
GENERAL INFORMATION:

CRITICAL MASS is the annual Invitational Exhibition for all Artists who reside/own property in the 9 parishes of Northwest Louisiana: Beinville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, and Webster. The purpose of the Critical Mass exhibition is to showcase the professional and emerging Artists in Northwest Louisiana and to provide professional Critical Review for Artists spanning all art disciplines.

Published Critics from across America are selected by former Critical Mass Critic, **LAUREN SMART**, an arts writer and critic based in Los Angeles. Her writing appears in the Dallas Morning News, D Magazine, American Theatre magazine, among others. She's on the journalism faculty at Loyola Marymount University. Previously, she served on the faculty at Southern Methodist University and worked as the Arts & Culture Editor at the Dallas Observer. She founded and organized a feminist literary arts festival, Women Galore, in collaboration with the Dallas bookstore The Wild Detectives. She developed and managed a Dallas Public Library high school journalism workshop Storytellers Without Borders from 2017-2020.

The Critics (one in each Arts Discipline including Visual, Literary, Theatre, and Music-Dance) will review the works in each Discipline. Additionally, Critics will provide portfolio reviews for works on the Culturalyst Directory.

VISUAL CRITIC: LUCIA SIMEK

Lucia Arbery Simek is an artist, writer and curator and currently serves as deputy director at Dallas Contemporary. She has exhibited her artwork both locally and internationally, and has published widely on contemporary art, including most recently in Ursula. As a curator, she has mounted exhibitions at the Dallas Museum of Art and The Reading Room, among others, and as well as curated a permanent collection of works for the historic Adolphus Hotel in downtown Dallas, where she also organized a highly acclaimed series of public talks with artists and writers. She is currently working on a book of essays about the Texan landscape and mid-century artists Forrest Bess, Myron Stout and Alberto Burri, to be published by Deep Vellum Publishing.

LITERARY CRITIC: A. KENDRA GREENE

A. Kendra Greene began her museum career marrying text to the exhibition wall, painstakingly, character by character, each vinyl letter trembling at the point of a bonefolder, ready to break. Now she is the author, illustrator, and audiobook reader of *The Museum of Whales You Will Never See*, first published by Penguin and now translated into German and French.

Her work has been presented at the Smithsonian, exhibited at The Reading Room, and supported by fellowships from MacDowell, Yaddo, Harvard University's Library Innovation Lab, and the University of Texas Ralph A. Johnston Memorial Fellowship at the Dobie Paisano ranch. She became an essayist during a Fulbright grant to South Korea, then left a perfectly good museum job to get her MFA at the University of Iowa as a Jacob K. Javits fellow.

She has also costumed an ice age giant ground sloth, got an independent bookstore up and running, run a chemistry class out of an office park, and spent four years as associate editor of *The Southwest Review*. She is a former Dallas Museum of Art writer in residence and longtime Nasher Sculpture center guest artist. In addition to workshops and community partnerships, she has also taught as visiting professor at UNC Chapel Hill, UT Dallas, and the University of Iceland. Her fine press and artist books are held in collections as far away as Qatar. Her writing has appeared in publications from *Atlas Obscura* to *Zzyzyva*, including *The Guardian* and *Wall Street Journal*, *Dallas Morning News* and *D Magazine*, *Fourth Genre* and *Ninth Letter*, *The Common* and *The Normal School*, *LitHub* and *The Rumpus*. Her writing has been anthologized in *The Best Women's Travel Writing*, *FieldWorking: Reading and Writing Research*, and twice in *Freeman's*. As we speak, she is squirreled away in some collection or another, composing a bestiary and a poison cabinet, respectively.

PERFORMING ARTS CRITIC: DÓRI BOSNYÁK

Dóri Bosnyák manages the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. She plans and presents vibrant and relevant lectures, concerts, dance performances and theatrical experiences by world class artists to the greater West Texas community.

She hails from Budapest, Hungary, which Hungarians consider the "Heart of Europe.". Growing up in such a distinctive cultural & historical hub, she gained an appreciation for the visual and performing arts early on. She made her way to the U.S. in 2011 where she received her BA degrees in Film, Theatre and Performance Studies and International Studies at Graceland University (Lamoni, IA). After entering the performing arts field in Kansas City, MO, she made her way to TTU to earn her MFA in Arts Administration in the School of Theatre & Dance.

She serves as President to the Board of Directors for the Outside In Theatre Festival and co-chair to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region VI ASPIRE/Arts Administration track.

NOTE: IF THERE ARE LESS THAN 10 ENTRIES IN ANY ART DISCIPLINE, Shreveport Regional Arts Council will NOT bring the Critic to review the works. The works may be Exhibited/Presented, but they will not be reviewed.

The Visual, Literary and Performing Arts Critics (combined) will each choose a "Best of Show" award winner within their respective discipline. The award is given to the ONE WORK in the Visual Arts Exhibition, Literary Presentation, and Performance Showcase that compels the Critic to "want to see more!"

This will result in a \$5,000 Prize, divided with \$2,500 as the Award Prize and \$2,500 Commission Fee to create a solo presentation with at least 50% new works presented in Spring 2025 during Critical Mass 13. There will be published Critical Review by the Critic that selected the work. Artists submitting work to Critical Mass must commit to a solo exhibition to open in Spring 2025.

ELIGIBILITY: All active NWLA **Culturalyst** Directory Artists are eligible to submit works as further defined below. The Artist must be self-registered and ACTIVE at the time of **submission** to CRITICAL MASS 12. If you need assistance in registering on the Culturalyst Directory, please contact Karen La Beau, karen@shrevearts.org.

Artists participating must live or own property in the 9 parishes of Northwest Louisiana and must not be currently attending school or enrolled in an art class (no students).

Artists submitting work to CRITICAL MASS must be prepared to complete a (largely) new body of work for a "solo" performance, exhibition, or presentation to open in Spring 2025, for which \$2,500 is allocated to the Artist.

SUBMISSION: Artists may submit work in more than one Arts Discipline but may only submit **one work** per Discipline.

Submitted works must be original and created by the artist within the last 24 months and cannot have been exhibited, presented, performed or publicly reviewed at artspace or the Central ARTSTATION prior to the CRITICAL MASS 12 Exhibition.

SRAC reserves the right to not accept any submission that fails to meet the criteria for eligibility as outlined below. There is no fee to participate.

There are TWO parts to the Entry Process:

1. Submit your form to demonstrate that you will participate due Thursday, March 28, at 4:00 PM.
2. Submit artwork between Tuesday, April 2 – Saturday, April 6, from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm. The deadline to submit your work is Saturday, April 6, at 5:00 PM.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES include a Digital Portfolio Review provided by the Critics by appointment, via Zoom. The Critics will offer Digital Portfolio Reviews on Thursday, April 25 and Friday, April 26. This is an important aspect of Critical Mass 12 because it prepares the Artist to further review to the Roster, or Fellowship status in September 2024.

This year, Performing Artists will perform their work at the new Caddo Common Park Pavilion as part of the combined Performing Arts and Literary Arts Showcase. Literary readings will take place between Performances. This is optional for Literary Artists.

See more opportunities on the next page.

Critics will also provide "one on one" review of the Artists who participated in Critical Mass 12. This will be done on a first come, first serve basis between 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM on Saturday, April 27.

NEW: We are combining Critical Mass 12 (2024) and Critical Mass 11 Solo Shows (2023 Winners) into one action packed weekend! Critical Mass 12 will open on Thursday, April 25 with the Performance Showcase at Caddo Common Park, followed by the Visual and Literary Showcases on Friday, April 26 at Artspace on MAINSPACE. We will simultaneously open the Critical Mass 11 Winners' Solo Shows on Friday, April 26 at Artspace on COOLSPACE.

See more information about Visual, Literary, and Performing Arts Submissions on the next page.

VISUAL ARTISTS SUBMISSION:

To submit work, complete the following online application. The online form will only be available until **4:00 pm, Thursday, March 28, 2024**. You may deliver work to artspace from Tuesday, April 2 – Saturday, April 6, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

A copy of your submission will be emailed to the address you supply in the form and will need to be **printed and attached to your work upon delivery**. If you do not receive an e-mail copy of your application, please contact Casey Jones: casey@shrevearts.org as it may mean we did not receive your application. The image link in your email will be a dead link, as it is immediately pulled to an internal Dropbox file - no need to resubmit your entry. With questions about the upload or your entry form, call artspace at 318-673-6535.

Your ARTWORK, with the submission form attached, must be delivered directly to artspace, 708 Texas Street, downtown Shreveport, **NO LATER THAN 5:00 pm, SATURDAY, APRIL 6. NO LATE ARTWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

2D / 3D Visual Art includes all visual, literary (if presented as a Visual Entry) or any artwork that fits the following specifications:

- Can be displayed on wall, pedestal (artist may need to provide pedestal if the required pedestal size is not available at artspace), or the floor (2D and 3D works).
- Visual Artists may submit one work that can be comprised of up to three elements (triptych), but that stands a complete work.
- The Work must be ready to hang/display. If needed, Artist must provide the necessary additional hardware with which to display the Artwork safely on a pedestal (provided by the artist) or the floor. The piece must be forthright, not an installation piece that requires the artist's supervision.
Note: If your 2D work arrives and is not prepared to go on the wall, it will not be accepted.
- We ask that submitted 2D pieces be no larger than 6ft x 6ft. If a larger piece is submitted, it will only be accepted upon the discretion of artspace.
- The work must fit through the front doors of artspace. The artist must be able to carry/move the piece to the venue without artspace staff assistance. There are no other size restrictions; however we do encourage artists to consider that there are many artists who may submit for this exhibition and space is limited.

Visual Artists are encouraged to offer their work for sale. The Artist receives 70% of the purchase price and artspace receives a 30% consignment fee.

Digital Artworks can be attached to the online application but must be delivered to artspace on a thumb/flash drive or compact disc with a registration form. ALL submissions must be received by an artspace employee by **5:00 pm, Saturday, April 6, 2024**

Media Entries such as short film or animation will be shown on an artspace television provided by the Shreveport Regional Arts Council.

SRAC reserves the right to not accept any submission that fails to meet the criteria for eligibility as outlined below. There is no fee to participate.

LITERARY APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

To submit work, complete the following online application. The online form will only be available until **4:00 pm, Thursday, March 28, 2024.**

A copy of your submission will be emailed to the address you supply in the form and will need to be printed and attached to your work upon delivery. If you do not receive an e-mail copy of your application, it may mean we did not receive your application; please contact Casey Jones, casey@shrevearts.org for assistance.

Due to formatting irregularities, all literary submissions must be submitted in **.pdf format**. If you need help with this, please contact casey@shrevearts.org.

The pdf of the work must be attached to the online application. ALL submissions must be submitted by **4:00 pm, Thursday, March 28, 2024.**

Literary Artists are invited to submit up to 10 pages that reads as **one complete work** under one title, theme, or collection. The Work should be double spaced, at a minimum 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins (all around) for the Critic to easily assess the piece. This is required unless the works requires a typography with a visual context.

If a Poetry submission, comprising one complete work, there may only be one poem per page - up to a maximum of 10 poems or ten pages; formatting rules are applied.

Identify each and all pages with both your Full Name and the Number " ____ of 10" (Example: Casey Jones, #3 of 10)

The Critic is reviewing the work via the submitted PDF. If the Critic cannot decipher the work, or the submission guidelines are not followed, the entry will be considered ineligible.

The work will be exhibited on tables or bound and placed on shelves in artspace.

Literary Artists participating also have the right of refusal to read an excerpt of their submitted work in front of an audience in between sets during the Performing Arts Showcase at Caddo Common Park between 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

PERFORMING ARTISTS GUIDELINES:

ALL Performing Artists (Dance, Theatre, Music) MUST SUBMIT THE ONLINE APPLICATION form by **4:00 pm, Thursday, March 28, 2024.**

IF THERE ARE NOT AT LEAST 10 PERFORMANCES, AND at least FIVE PERFORMANCES in each DISCIPLINE, the CRITICS will not be contracted for the review.

Examples:

1. There are 11 Performing Artists who each submit an application to perform.
 - A. 5 are Musicians
 - B. 3 are Dancers
 - C. 3 are Actors/Spoken Word Artists

Shreveport Regional Arts Council will bring in a Critic for Music and a Critic who can “combine” skills for Theatre and Dance or for Music and one other Performing Art Discipline.

2. There are 20 Performing Artists who each submit an application to perform:
 - A. 7 are Musicians
 - B. 5 are Dancers
 - C. 5 are Actors/Storytellers/Spoken Word Artists

Shreveport Regional Arts Council will bring 3 Critics - one per discipline

3. There are 7 Performing Artists who submit an application:
Shreveport Regional Arts Council will cancel the Performing Arts Showcase because there were not at least 10 entries.

THE PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE SCHEDULE @ Caddo Common Park

The REHEARSAL: **Wednesday, April 24, 2024** from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM; by APPOINTMENT. This is a sound check, lighting plan, and “get comfortable on the stage” opportunity - 30 minutes maximum per performance.

The PERFORMANCE: **Thursday, April 25, 2024**, FROM 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The Winner will not be announced until Friday, April 26, at Artspace.

PERFORMANCE RULES:

The performance length is a maximum of ten (10) minutes encompassing one work. This is not a melody of tunes; a series of monologues, a sampling of dance styles - it is one contiguous thought/artwork. The Work may not have been performed through a SRAC commission in the past 24 months.

The Work may be a maximum of ten (10) minutes in length, performed in front of the Critic and an Audience. The Work may feature one artist or include as many performers as necessary to convey the artistic experience. The names of the Artists and a Title for the Work must be included on the application. The Critic will be looking at the overall production value of the work. There will be a “dress rehearsal” with a professional sound and light manager.

Performances may be executed by individuals, groups, or organizations that produce work (theatre, dance, opera, and symphony companies as examples). Performances by Students and School Groups are not eligible. The lead artist must have an active listing on the NWLA Artist Directory. If you need help filling out the application, please contact Casey Jones: casey@shrevearts.org

CRITICAL MASS 12 AWARD:

The Visual, Literary and Performing Arts Critics will each choose a “Best of Show” award winner within their respective Arts Discipline. The \$5,000 “Prize”, with \$2,500 as the Award Prize and \$2,500 Commission Fee to create a solo presentation. Artists submitting work to Critical Mass must be prepared for this exhibition to open in Spring 2025.

The selected Artists along with the designated Critics, and the artspace team will negotiate the “amount” of new work that will be combined with current work to form a “Solo Show” to open in Spring 2025. The artspace team will work with the Artist to design the most effective Exhibition, Presentation, or Performance environment for the Solo Show.

Each designated Critic will return to Shreveport to review the “Best of Show” Solo exhibition produced by each selected artist. The Critic will provide a one-on-one verbal review with the Artist and a public “Critic’s Talk” reviewing the work, explaining the elements of a strong review, and sharing the conversation with the artist. Finally, the Critic will submit a written review to local/national art publications/websites.

KEY DATES:

Thursday, March 28, 2024, no later than 4:00 pm:

All CM12 Submissions/Applications Due. Unless otherwise notified, this is a showcase of all Artists in Northwest Louisiana with the requirement that the Artist be self-registered on the NWLA ARTISTS DIRECTORY - determined as ACTIVE - at the time of submission. The Artist must also not be a student currently enrolled in an art program.

Tuesday, April 2 - Saturday, April 6, 2024, no later than 5:00 pm:

Artwork, with the submission form attached, must be delivered directly to artspace, 7090 Texas Street, downtown Shreveport. NO LATE ARTWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Wednesday, April 24, 2024, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM:

PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE REHEARSAL scheduled by appointment.

Thursday, April 25 and Friday, April 26, 2024:

Performance Portfolio Reviews by appointment. A link will be sent out to ALL artists with selected times at a later date.

Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm:

PERFORMANCE ARTS SHOWCASE at Caddo Common Park

Friday, April 26, from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

CRITICAL MASS 12 Awards, Review and Opening Reception for Critical Mass 12 Visual and Literary Showcases at artspace on MAINSPACE. Critical Mass 11 Visual, Literary, and Performing Arts Showcase will be opening at artspace on COOLSPACE.

Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10:00 am – 12 noon:

One-on-one Review of Showcased Art: Visual, Literary, and Performance. These reviews will be conducted at artspace.

Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 12:00 am – 2:00 pm:

Critical Mass 11 Winners will give their Artist Talks at Artspace on COOLSPACE.