

## *Open Sessions* May 2018–April 2020 Application

Applications due by February 26, 2018

All applicants will be notified by April 19, 2018

Open Sessions will begin in May 2018

The Drawing Center is pleased to announce the third open call for applications to Open Sessions. Open Sessions is a program that provides opportunities for selected artists to find new approaches for contextualizing and exhibiting their work through conversation, public programs, and gallery installations. Open Sessions fosters a dynamic, ever-evolving dialogue with new drawing practices and practitioners, viewing drawing as an activity rather than a product. We understand drawing as a practice both concrete and metaphorical, a space for assertion, conjecture, and digression. Drawing may or may not be the primary means of art-making for Open Sessions artists (visit the [drawingcenter.org](http://drawingcenter.org) and go to the Open Sessions pages for information on past participants).

Open Sessions occurs in a two-year cycle of events and exhibitions (described below), the content for which is conceptualized, developed, and realized by the participants. While all artists do not participate in every event, they are each committed to and engaged in establishing an ongoing dialogue with their peers. The program is organized by Open Sessions Curators Rosario Güiraldes and Lisa Sigal and is comprised of the following:

### **EXHIBITIONS**

In the second year of the cycle, all Open Sessions artists participate in an exhibition in The Drawing Center's Main Gallery, contributing work that best manifests and/or expands what drawing is. In addition, Open Sessions artists organize and participate in multiple smaller-group exhibitions in The Lab. Open Sessions artists are involved in all aspects of planning the exhibitions: choosing themes and titles, writing promotional materials, and developing public programs. Open Sessions also seeks to forge alliances with partner institutions to expand audiences and exhibition platforms.

### **WORKING DINNERS**

Open Sessions artists are invited to present work in process during monthly dinners hosted by the Open Sessions curators. Artists benefit from the exchange of work methodologies, opportunities, and resources. Special guests may also contribute to the dinner's conversation. Working dinners foster an environment where artists become invested in each other's work and process.

### **STUDIO VISITS**

Open Sessions Curators visit artists' studios in preparation for The Lab and Main Gallery exhibitions. Throughout the two-year cycle each artist is visited at least twice. Guest artists and curators may also visit the artists.

## **OPEN TALKS**

Furthering our mission to engage in an open and responsive conversation, Open Sessions hosts a series of talks during the course of each cycle. The talks are open to the public and guest speakers are invited to participate directly.

## **PUBLICATION**

A publication of Open Sessions artist conversations that address the future of drawing is produced at the end of each cycle.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES: Upload materials by February 26, 2018 to submittable  
<https://thedrawingcenter.submittable.com/submit/102984/open-sessions-may-2018-april-2020-application>

### Checklist (via Submittable)

- Full name
- Brief statement of interest (200 words max.)
- Proposal for a project—an exhibition, a performance, a conversation, a publication, a panel discussion, etc. (300 words max.)
- Ten examples of work as images, texts, video or sound files, etc. (10 files max.)
- Work example caption list, including title, date, dimensions, medium, and other applicable information for each work
- Curriculum vitae, including e-mail and website addresses
- Title all files and folders beginning with your last and first name (Smith\_Jane\_Resume)

Please read the above information carefully. E-mail [opensessions@drawingcenter.org](mailto:opensessions@drawingcenter.org) with questions that are not answered below.

**Application deadline: February 26, 2018**

## **ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER**

The Drawing Center, a museum in Manhattan's SoHo district, explores the medium of drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to contemporary culture, the future of art, and creative thought. Its activities, which are both multidisciplinary and broadly historical, include exhibitions; Open Sessions, a curated artist program encouraging community and collaboration; the Drawing Papers publication series; and education and public programs.

# *Open Sessions* FAQs

## **I am a musician/poet/dancer/scientist/etc. Can I apply to Open Sessions? How can I benefit from it?**

We welcome applications from practitioners of all disciplines. If your work would benefit from a conversation about drawing—as a practice, tool, metaphor, theme, etc.—we encourage you to apply. For further information about what kind of interdisciplinary work is possible at The Drawing Center, please look at past exhibitions on our [website](#).

## **I don't live in New York. Can I apply to Open Sessions?**

Artists from outside New York City, and around the world, are encouraged to apply, with the understanding that more time in New York will mean more opportunities for participation. If you have a proposed way of engaging with Open Sessions from afar, we encourage you to submit it. We accept applicants who are able to be in New York for only part of the two years (a full calendar of events will be determined prior to orientation week). However, artists are expected to attend our events and engage with their peers (even if this means participating remotely.)

## **How do I know if my work is appropriate for Open Sessions?**

Drawing is a medium that encompasses the most venerable traditions of the art studio as well as experimental and interdisciplinary practices. Open Sessions brings together various ways of thinking about drawing, from the traditional to the unconventional, the formal to the conceptual. Simply put, if an exploration into the nature of drawing interests you, we hope you will apply.

## **Is Open Sessions a residency program?**

Open Sessions is not a residency. We do not offer studio or living space, and Open Sessions events will be occasional (approximately every month). We open the doors of The Drawing Center as a space for participants to hold occasional conversations, public programs, and installations of their work. This allows participating artists to think together without taking away from time in the studio.

## **Is there a fee for Open Sessions? Is there a stipend?**

There are no fees charged and no stipends or funding offered for Open Sessions.

## **What materials can I submit with my application?**

Submit the materials that best characterize your practice. Some atypical examples are: videos of performances or lectures; chapbooks; musical scores; audio files; schematic drawings used in architectural or scientific contexts.

## **Can names or examples of other artist's work be included in my application for context?**

You are welcome to name artists who have influenced you or with whom you have collaborated, if this gives a sense of your practice. However, we ask that your images and other application materials consist only of your own work (or work made in direct collaboration with others.)

## **Can artists apply together?**

Applicants are welcome to apply as a collaborative team.

**Can an application be over-qualified?**

No. We welcome applications from anyone who is interested in the opportunities afforded by Open Sessions.

**Is Open Sessions open to applications from students?**

No. Open Sessions is an opportunity for dialogue, and we assume students receive this from their academic program.

**Does Open Sessions specifically target emerging artists?**

We hope Open Sessions will appeal to a cross section of artists at many different stages of their careers, reflecting the range of artists working with drawing.

**What kinds of “collaborative events” will take place in Open Sessions?**

Open Sessions participants will work together with Open Sessions curators to organize events based on the application proposals. These events might include studio visits; panel discussions, talks, or performances; building an object; and partnering with other groups/institutions for additional exhibition opportunities. There are no workshops or classes in the traditional sense, rather organized opportunities for deeper conversations about drawing. The parameters of Open Sessions are defined by the participants.

**Is every public program tied to an exhibition?**

No. Artists are expected to develop public programs in conjunction with the exhibitions and, in addition, Open Sessions hosts a series of public events during the course of each cycle.